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Near East & South Asia

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LD121419 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Political Developments—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem radio in a 12 February interview that the U.S. initiative is "not a consolidated plan" and Israel is still awaiting "clarifications and answers" to various questions. Commenting on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' views, Shamir said the Alignment leader is confirming Arab expectations that the Jews are "giving in," and he warned that Peres' policy could lead Israel to giving up "everything" without reaching peace.

Peres had earlier accused the Likud of foiling all chances of opening negotiations with any Arab party, Jerusalem radio noted. He also confirmed that the Labor Party agrees to accept the accelerated timetable stipulated in the new U.S. plan.

Security, Disturbances—Three Fatah "terrorists" were caught trying to enter Israel from the Egyptian border 5 February, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The head of the IDF southern command said the infiltrators apparently intended to take hostages or hijack a bus to carry out a "mass attack" on an Israeli settlement. While stressing that the Egyptian authorities were apparently unaware of the squad, the commander indicated that it was assisted by sympathizers in Egypt.

As for the situation on the West Bank, IDF radio reported that Israeli troops arrested "rioters and agitators" in a village near Tulkarm. Ten people were also arrested by police during "serious disturbances" in an Arab village in northern Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. On the IDF's methods to quell disturbances, members of a visiting team of U.S. physicians said they have medical evidence of "an uncontrolled epidemic of violence" against West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

Palestinian Radios—In a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, the "unified leadership of the uprising" urged the management of the clandestine Al-Quds radio to stop promoting "discord" and "genuinely" join with the main PLO radio. The statement urged the Syrian-based Al-Quds radio to refrain from "linking nationalistic figures to agent figures" and to broadcast statements by the uprising leadership in full without ommissions. It also called on the Al-Quds radio and the Syrian regime to turn "a new leaf" in relations with the PLO.

Broadcasts by Al-Quds radio on 11 February included a warning to the IDF that the Palestinians will fulfill Israeli fears regarding the possible use of weapons stored in the Gaza Strip. The station's broadcasts on 12 February were disrupted by outside interference and the radio was heard to say it was being jammed by "the Zionist enemy." Al-Quds radio urged its listeners to hear its transmissions on another frequency by searching and retuning.

Gulf Conflict

Iranian speedboats attacked a Danish supertanker in the southern Gulf 12 February, wounding at least three crew members, Gulf maritime sources disclosed to AFP. The attack on the 300,000-tonne "Kate Maersk" occurred between the UAE coast and Iran's abandoned "Rostam" oil platform. Tehran radio noted that the vessel was damaged by "speedboats."

The Iranian action followed an Iraqi strike on a "large" maritime target off the Iranian coast the previous night, announced by an Iraqi spokesman in a statement to INA. Voice of the Masses radio also broadcast a military statement claiming that Iraqi helicopters destroyed two Iranian boats which attempted to approach an Iraqi offshore oil jetty in the northern Gulf.

Following renewed Iraqi air strikes on Iran 11 February, Iran's military command announced that its aircraft bombed Iraqi targets east of Basra 12 February, IRNA reported. The attack was in retaliation for an Iraqi raid on Fars Province in which 12 Iranian civilians were reportedly killed. Iranian planes also bombed Iraqi military targets in the Al-'Amarah and Basra areas 11 February, according to a communique cited by IRNA.

Soviet Diplomacy in Iran, Pakistan

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy arrived in Tehran 11 February, stating that his talks with Iranian officials will focus on the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf crisis, Afghanistan, and other international issues, IRNA reported.

Commenting on the results of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov's visit to Pakistan, a Pakistani spokesman cited by Islamabad radio said the talks were "very fruitful," noting that the Soviet visitor was informed that Pakistan gives the "utmost importance" to arrangements for the return of Afghan refugees. Before leaving Islamabad, Vorontsov stressed the USSR's readiness to help in making arrangements for the refugees' return to Afghanistan, the radio noted.

Hostages in Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement in which it threatened to take "revenge" against its four hostages, three of whom are U.S. citizens. The statement, which was reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, was accompanied by a photograph of hostage Alan Steen.

In another development, gunmen kidnapped two Swedish journalists near Beirut Airport but subsequently released them after ascertaining that their captives were not West Germans, Stockholm radio reported. As for the fate of two Scandinavian UNRWA employees who were kidnapped near Sidon 5 February, the Voice of Lebanon said it has information that they will be set free in exchange for an UNRWA pledge not to dismiss any more of its Palestinian employees.

Jordan

Mirage Deal—A French official cited by Amman's THE JERUSALEM STAR stated that France has agreed to supply Jordan with 20 Mirage 2000 aircraft, disclosing that the contract was signed during King Husayn's recent visit to Paris. The official said the Mirage was chosen over two main competitors: the Mig 29 and the Tornado.

Advice on Peace Plan—Jordanian political sources urged the United States to consult with the Soviet Union before submitting the final form of its new peace plan, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that a national committee comprising all political parties will be established to negotiate with the SPLM and establish peace in the country, SUNA reported. On the military situation in the south, Omdurman radio asserted that the Sudanese Army killed 100 SPLA men in an 8 February raid on an "outlaw" camp in Equatoria, adding that the SPLA's radio had claimed "imaginary victories" in this battle.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Jordan Deny Reports of Israel Contacts

PM111705 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt and Jordan: No Secret Contacts With Israel"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Occupied Jerusalem, Agencies—Cairo yesterday denied reports published in Israel about the possibility of a joint Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian meeting to discuss Middle East developments. It reaffirmed its rejection of any ideas promoting partial solutions. Meanwhile, Amman has in turn denied the London TIMES claim that Jordan and Israel have begun secret talks to work out a joint declaration with Egypt regarding the broad outlines of the new U.S. initiative. [passage omitted]

Informed Egyptian sources in Cairo have confirmed that Egypt insists on a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question and rejects any idea aimed at promoting partial solutions. The sources said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed willingness to implement autonomy in Gaza if the Labor Party wins the next elections. He also said that he would be willing to give up 70 percent of the West Bank territory with Israel, keeping the other 30 percent and retaining the settlements along the Tulkarm-Qalqilyah line.

The sources said that this proposal means separating the West Bank from Jordan and, in actual fact, annexing it to Israel, but that Egypt rejects this and insists on a comprehensive settlement. [passage omitted]

A responsible source at the Jordanian Embassy in London has totally denied yesterday's London TIMES report about secret contacts between Jordan and Israel which, he said, is part of the anti-Jordan campaign meant to divert attention from the repressive measures used against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories in violation of all international laws, conventions, and resolutions.

The source emphasized that Jordan's policy on this issue is firm and clear. The right way to solve the problem, he said, is through an international conference under UN supervision and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the parties concerned, including the PLO.

He said that Jordan sees the Palestinian question as a pan-Arab question and that the responsibility for tackling it falls on all the Arab states without exception, as is stated in the Amman emergency Arab summit resolutions of last November, and, therefore, there is no room for talking about the defunct Camp David agreements. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Efforts To Lease 'Return Ship' Reported

JN111336 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Athens this morning affirmed through the maritime transport minister that the PLO has so far not succeeded in leasing a ship. The official in charge of all Piraievs ports said that a ship does not exist; so far it is only a mirage, as he put it. So, what is going on? Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO chairman's information adviser and special envoy in Athens to supervise the organization of the voyage, explained that Israel is waging a secret war to foil the return ship plan. He said that Israel is threatening to kill all captains, crew, and shipowners if they go along with the PLO plan.

Meanwhile, there is much talk in the Greek capital and many conrtradictory reports on the issue. Some reports from Athens affirm that the voyage will begin this afternoon.

Patriarch Hilarion Capucci will join the voyage alongside His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker, who said this morning that the PLO had leased a ship. However, he added, the owners of this ship may change their mind if U.S. and Israeli pressure is too strong; that is, unless the Greek Government intervenes to resolve the crisis, taking into consideration that the Greek Government approves the operation.

The PLO office in Athens, however, is silent. Nothing has so far been issued from this office to clarify things. We will have to wait and see.

To Leave Greece 13 Feb

NC111707 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The return ship that will carry 200 deported Palestinians, 200 officials, and 200 journalists to Haifa, Israel, is expected to depart Piraievs at dawn on Saturday. This was announced at a news conference given today by Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser responsible for information affairs, as well as other PLO representatives. It was stated that the delay in departure was due to pressure exerted by Israel. Bassam Abu Sharif expressed his gratitude to the Greek Government for its stand, which, as he stressed, has a tradition in free shipping. The exact time of the ship's departure was not announced for security reasons.

Meanwhile, the Union of Greek Seamen stated in a telex message that some of its members will voluntarily participate in the journey.

'Unified' Committees Threaten To Use Weapons

JN111839 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Feb 88

["Text" of warning from Unified Palestinian Committees to Yitzhaq Mordekhay, "commander of the so-called southern command of Palestine"; date not given]

[Text] Late last month you expressed the fear that our youth would resort to arms instead of stones to get rid of your abhorrent occupation. Then in the middle of this week you directly threatened us not to use arms, because the consequences will be grave for the heroic inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

We do not want to enter into a futile dialogue with you. However, we remind you and your leaders that proud peoples have endured tons of bombs daily and ultimately defeated the invaders. Our heroic Palestinian people have claimed their honorable position among the struggling nations. We are not at all intimidated by your threats. Indeed, your threats confirm that it is you who are frightened by our heroic youth. You must know, O general, that it is we who have decided not to use weapons so far for many reasons: to deprive you of fulfilling your Nazi appetite, to show you the strength of our people's stones and our people's iron will to achieve victory, and to expose you all. You know that there are automatic weapons, ammunition, and bombs in the Gaza Strip. We know the reason for your fear. We will not tell you when, where, and how we will fulfill your fears. However, we reply to your threat to our people with a clear warning: Catastrophe awaits you if you do not immediately stop the policy of breaking limbs, firing shots, and attacking homes. That does not mean at all that we will not kill 78 of your civilians in retaliation for the killing of our old people, women, children, infants, and youths, anyone of whom is worth scores of your ilk.

Know that the continuation of your occupation in any form will lead to your experiencing our gunfire and will destroy more than just the pride of your generals.

[Signed] The Unified Palestinian Committees

'Militant Committee' Issues Warning to Motorists

JN112110 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the "Militant Committee of the Uprising—Dura"; date not given]]

[Text] Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. [Koranic verse] Brothers, private motorists, and taxi drivers: Out of a patriotic sense of responsibility, we address you as a sector of our striving people. We are addressing ourselves to you in particular, given the effective influence of motor vehicle traffic on strike action. Your failure to observe the strike can lead to a removal of barricades put up by strugglers, thus enabling Zionist soldiers to reach them and thwart their plans of confronting the enemy. Therefore, we think that the appearance of cars on roads on days of a comprehensive strike, or when barricades are in place, undermines the militant march. Your are called upon to keep your cars idle on the days of comprehensive strike decided by the leadership of the uprising. We will not accept excuses from motorists who refuse to be bound by the decisions of the leaders of the uprising. The motorists' program is as follows:

On days of a comprehensive strike, vehicles must remain completely idle, except in emergency involving illnesses, deaths, and injuries.

With regard to the bus company, all of the drivers of the towns' bus company must not transport workers to Palestine, but rather join the strike. They may only operate on the Hebron route. Deterrent action will be taken against violaters. Those who deviate from the revolutionary line will be dealt with severely. God be with us. Victory is at hand. We are together on the road of liberating land and man.

[Signed] The Militant Committee of the Uprising—Dura

Appeal to Al-Quds Radio on Uprising Coverage

JN112053 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1809 GMT 11 Feb 88

["Text" of appeal issued by "the Unified Leadership of the Uprising in the Occupied Territories"; date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From the heart of the occupied homeland, from the heart of the uprising, we send this appeal of ours to all those managing the Al-Quds radio. We appeal to them to refrain from making this radio of theirs produce a major discord in the voice of the uprising through confusing pure records with those that are stained, and also through confusing names and forging addresses. We, from the heart of the uprising, request this voice to join genuinely the voice of the uprising—this voice that reins supreme over all other voices. We call upon this voice—namely, the Al-Quds radio—to abide by the following points:

1. To refrain from linking nationalistic figures to agent figures and to display eagerness to end everything that does not serve the uprising and the revolution.

2. To take into account that the factional and pragmatic methods pursued by those who are behind this radio do not serve the voice of the uprising and not even your own interests, as the sons of our people transcend all those methods and all these poisons with their great unity.

3. We remind the respected radio and call upon it to broadcast in full, without any omissions or deletions, any of the statements of our uprising or of those issued by

our masses inside the occupied territories that it selects. Otherwise, we will have things to say in this regard in a more powerful and detailed manner.

4. We also call upon you and upon the Syrian regime, from the heart of the uprising, to meet the appeal of the uprising, the appeal made by the Leadership of the Uprising and also by their unified masses, regarding the turning of a new leaf in relations with our people's leadership; namely, the sole legitimate representative of our people, which is the PLO. This will bring about a nationalistic cohesion on the basis of mutual respect and respect for independent decisionmaking. This is especially so if we take into account that our Arab nation has this same appeal embedded within its breast, which we are sending to you from the land of the uprising, the land of Palestine. We, the Palestinian people, are waging a war of honor, a war in defense of our Arab nation's dignity. It is revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Unified Leadership of the Uprising in the Occupied Territories

Commentary Says U.S. Envoys on 'Wrong Path'
JN112131 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1900 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "The Americans Always Walk the Wrong Path"]

[Text] Brothers, O sons of our great Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation. The U.S. Administration always wears dark glasses, identifying with the Zionist viewpoint and rushing to effect moves, walking the wrong path and launching its black and lethal arrows toward the breast of genuine peace at a time when it claims to be pursuing peace. This is prompted by the total U.S. bias toward the Zionist enemy and by the total U.S. animosity toward our people and our nation. The harvest of its moves and the outcome of the trips made by its envoys are no more than powder that is blown by the wind, no more than a new hatred for its suspect role and the abject failure of the deals it hatches in darkness with this or that party. This is the situation of the U.S. Administration these days. The U.S. Administration has not seen anything related to the realities brought about by the uprising other than the impasse faced by the enemy and the interests of the enemy, as well as the viewpoint of this Zionist enemy.

Hence, it began to send envoys, one after another, beginning with Philip Habib and Richard Murphy, and then George Shultz. It began to send them to effect moves seeking to achieve the same objective—ridding the Zionist occupation authorities of their impasse, aborting the Palestinian uprising, and rallying the voice of support of some parties to serve its maneuvers—despite the fact that all experience has shown that all these voices are useless, that these voices neither ignite nor quell fires, simply because they are not the Palestinian voice, which is represented by the PLO. Yes, this is the situation of the U.S. Administration nowadays, which is taking the wrong path in a premeditated manner, launching a new conspiracy under the guise of an initative in the arena, and dispatching envoys to gain support for their schemes from those who can do nothing.

Everybody in the world has come to realize that the PLO has the final say and the decisive word on the Palestinian issue, Palestinian rights, and Palestinian objectives. Previously, Richard Murphy and other U.S. envoys who took the wrong course and wasted their time talking to those who have nothing to do with the issues claimed success and expressed happiness over the success of their missions. However, the smoke used to clear very quickly, exposing the reality of their failure and showing the reality of the strength of the PLO. Will the Americans learn from their mistakes and reconsider their calculations? Or will they remain unchanged, evading the right course? Anyhow, our decision, the decision of our people and that of our command, the decision of our giant generations, is to continue the comprehensive heroic uprising and to escalate it until our objectives are realized, the objectives without which there will be no tranquility or stability. And our objectives are ending the occupation and establishing our independent Palestinian state. We salute our militant people. May glory be the lot of our independent uprising. It is revolution until victory.

Unified 'National Command' on Future of Uprising
NC120911 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic
10 Feb 88 p 1

[Excerpt] The sweeping popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which entered its 3d month on 8 February, is liable to continue and escalate in light of the plan drawn up by the PLO—the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the Occupied Territories.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising has declared that it will call for all-out civil disobedience as a mounting struggle operation by boycotting all the enemy's economic entities and refusing to pay income tax until the national objectives of the uprising—the establishment of the independent national state under the PLO—have been attained.

A Palestinian spokesman in occupied Jerusalem has affirmed to AL-NASR that the Unified National Command consists of representatives of all the factions in the occupied territories: Fatah, DFLP, PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, ALF, Islamic and Christian organizations, and representatives of businessmen, workers, and all other professionals. This illustrates that this command represents all factions of Palestinian society.

The spokesman noted that the formation of the Unified National Command in such a broad form reiterates that the uprising was not spontaneous. It was, rather, the fruit of a meticulous study which will pass through escalatory

stages as determined by the Unified Command in serving the objective for which the Palestinians rose in revolt: recognition of their right to live and establish an independent sovereign state.

The spokesman affirmed that the uprising is liable to continue for 6 months and beyond if the occupation authorities refuse to submit. He went on to say: "We will not tire; we will make them tire before us, because whoever holds on longer will triumph in the end." [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Discusses Soviet Policy

LD111541 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, 11 Feb (KUNA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), has stated that "the Soviet Government is about to take a political stand regarding the Palestinian uprising. This will not only be the opinion of Soviet social institutions."

Hawatimah said in an exclusive interview with KUNA that in the next few days Moscow will witness intense activity centered on the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, aimed at setting up an international peace conference with the participation of the PLO as an independent delegation. He referred in this respect to the visits of British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow in the near future.

He added: "Between the visits, a series of Soviet moves towards the Middle East, Western Europe, and the United States is in the offing," indicating that these moves had in fact started with a message from the Soviet Government to the EEC foreign ministers meeting in Bonn. These moves are aimed at promoting a West European stand toward the right of the Palestinian people and toward Arab rights, at securing the adoption of a collective stand which supports the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and at speeding up the convocation of a fully mandated international conference, with a view to finding collective solutions and guarantees for the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples.

Nayif Hawatimah thinks that the early Soviet announcement of their intention to withdraw forces from Afghanistan, over a 10-month period beginning next March, with agreements signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and after assurances are given by both the Soviet Union and the United States to end the operations of interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs in return for a scheduled withdrawal of the Soviet forces, "to a certain extent serves the uprising taking place on the Palestinian land, and helps focus light on the Middle East crisis so that efforts are no longer dissipated over many tense regional problems."

The Palestinian official went on to say that his talks with the Soviet leaders sought to reinforce and develop forms of Soviet support for the uprising in order to achieve tangible results in the field. He indicated that "we should not allow the Israeli policy of the iron fist and the breaking of limbs, nor the U.S. maneuvers brought to the Middle East by Philip Habib, Richard Murphy, and Michael Armacost, to succeed in breaking the uprising."

Hawatimah stressed that high-level talks were held, which indicates that the Soviet Union will not leave the uprising without various forms of material and political support and mobilization (of public opinion).

The Palestinian official said that the uprising and its dimensions were discussed with Soviet officials and that the consolidation of the Soviet stand had become a practical necessity, especially turning Shevardnadze's message into a practical issue by giving it foundations, and not just relying on the efforts of the UN secretary general.

Hawatimah also revealed that "the Soviet side has clearly informed us of its absolute rejection of the new U.S. ideas concerning the Middle East and that it views them as the Camp David (accords) with new colors. The Soviet side also stressed Moscow's rejection of the U.S. plans for self-rule and autonomy brought by Washington's envoys to the Middle East. Moscow also rejected the plans for a regional conference which Washington is trying to hold with the participation of Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, under the chairmanship of the United States and with the participation of Palestinian elements, not the PLO, in order to draw up the transition formula for the second phase which covers the issue of autonomy on the occupied Palestinian territories."

The Palestinian official added that the transition formula would mean autonomy rule for the population with the participation of Israel and Jordan.

Hawatimah went on to say that "the Soviets reject this process, in general and in its specifics, because it constitutes an operation aimed at encircling the uprising in order to break it and prevent it from realizing its goals: making the occupants leave the Palestinian towns, villages, and camps, and obtaining the implementation of the Fourth Geneva treaty under UN auspices, as a prelude to guaranteeing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination within the framework of international collective guarantees which only a fully mandated international conference can give." [passage omitted] With regard to the means of taking the uprising to a developed stage, Hawatimah said: The development is taking place step by step and gathering momentum. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah described the normalization of relations between the PLO and Syria and the establishment of strong relations between them as "the best present which Syria, the PLO, and all the Arab states can give to the uprising inside

the territories. This will enable us to open up a second front against the Israeli occupation forces in south Lebenon and consequently its forces will be scattered on two fronts, inside and in the south [as received], and this will secure the expulsion of the Israeli enemy by armed force from southern Lebanon without restrictions or conditions."

Hawatimah concluded his statement by affirming the need for the Arab foreign ministers to put their resolutions into practice and move from words to deeds, because there are 2 million human beings in the streets who are in need of daily bread to continue to stand on their feet in fighting against occupation.

Chad

'Heavy Losses' in Habre Forces, Frolinat Clash

AB120758 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Tension has been mounting in Chad where serious fighting is going on between the Frolinat [Chadian National Liberation Front] and Hissein Habre's forces. Clashes have taken place in several parts of the country, especially in the surrounding areas of the capital, Ndjamena. According to some sources, there have been heavy losses.

Habre Receives Algerian, Togolese Emissaries

AB112157 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] President El Hadj Hissein Habre this afternoon received an envoy from Algerian head of state Chadli Bendjedid. He is Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, minister of state for the presidency. Their discussions lasted for more than 1 hour and centered on bilateral cooperation and the establishment of peace in our subregion. [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 11 February also carries a brief report on the meeting, adding that the Chadian foreign minister and the Algerian ambassador to Chad were also in attendance.] [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

This evening, the head of state received Togolese Foreign Minister Yaovi Adodo. The Togolese minister brought a message from Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema to his Chadian counterpart, Hissein Habre. After the meeting, Yaovi Adodo was interviewed by Mahama Tidian of Tele-Chad [Chadian Television Service] and Doro Nguela Kitcher of Radio Chad.

[Begin recording] [Adodo] I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the head of state, who received us soon after our arrival here. Our discussions centered on relations between the Republics of Togo and Chad. As you are aware, the bonds of friendship and brotherhood existing between Presidents Hissein Habre and Gnassingbe Eyadema [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Within the framework of these relations, the Togolese head of state has often advised Chadians. Some of them have returned to the big family, but we have learned that some Chadians are still in the region. Have you heard of [words indistinct]?

[Adodo] [Words indistinct] the reconciliation process in Chad [word indistinct] with much enthusiasm, but we have not heard anything about that. [passage indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr Minister, a Gabonese envoy recently went to Lome to deliver a message to President Gnassingbe Eyadema. [Words indistinct] Gabon assumed the chairmanship of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya dispute. Do these various consultations concern this dispute?

[Adodo] [Words indistinct] tell you the contents of the messages [words indistinct] the president of Togo. However, as you know, there is a program of consultations among the heads of state of the subregion on problems of bilateral relations, peace, and security in the entire region. I cannot, therefore, tell you that if Chad has been able [words indistinct] in which term the conclusions have been established [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Egypt

Turkey's Prime Minister Ozal Arrives for Visit

NC121459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon to begin a 4-day visit. They were invited by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who received them at the airport.

Cooperation Agreement With Turkey Signed 11 Feb

NC112115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Egypt and Turkey signed a cooperation agreement today at the conclusion of a 2-day meeting of the Egyptian-Turkish Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The protocol, signed for Egypt by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and on behalf of Turkey by Minister of State Adnan Kahveci, includes cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, tourism, housing and reconstruction, maritime transportation, and trade.

Dr Makramallah pointed out that they have agreed to establish an Egyptian-Turkish investment holding company. The amount of capital needed will be determined after the legal procedures establishing the company are completed. The company will deal in machinery, agricultural equipment, and meat products, he said. An agreement was made to allow Turkish and Egyptian contractors to take part in projects carried out in each of the two countries or in third countries, he added. The agreement includes cooperation in the engineering, electrical industry, and electronics fields, and in the automobile, cement, and sugar industries. Projects will be initiated to produce car tires, to use phosphate ore from the Abu Tartur area, and to produce aluminum products and ammonia, he noted. The two sides also agreed to set up a cement-producing plant which will produce 1 million tons of cement per year.

Dr Makramallah concluded by saying that the two sides have agreed to accelerate bilateral trade, increase Egypt's exports to Turkey, and streamline the trade deficit by means of increasing barter deals between the two countries.

Holding Company Planned

TA120755 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The concluding protocol of the joint Turkish-Egyptian economic committee's fourth round meetings has been signed in Cairo. According to an ANATOLIA AGENCY report, the two delegations headed by State Minister Adnan Kahveci and Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, reached an agreement in principle to establish an investment holding company aimed at eliminating the bilateral trade imbalance, which is currently in Turkey's favor.

The protocol stipulates that the joint investment holding company's capital should consist of loans to be secured from international finance organizations as well as from Turkish and Egyptian resources. The investments to be undertaken by the holding company will accelerate Egypt's industrial development and be used as [word indistinct] of this country's natural gas resources. The two countries will establish ammonium, aluminum, (?methanol), iron, and cement plants in Egypt, whose output will be used to meet the needs of Turkey, Egypt, and will be exported to third countries.

The protocol also states that the two sides agreed to establish a joint investment consortium in the field of heavy industry and to manufacture investment products. Furthermore, the Turkish and Egyptian airline companies will conduct contacts to increase the number of flights between the two countries in order to develop tourism. State Minister Kahveci was in a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi when this news bulletin was prepared.

Officials Meet With Kuwaiti Interior Minister

LD111839 Kuwait KUNA in English 1754 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, who is currently on a visit here, Thursday met with senior Egyptian officials including Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi.

Shaykh Salim met with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah.

An official spokesman told KUNA that Shaykh Salim delivered a message from Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to Abu Ghazalah.

The source noted that talks with the Egyptian officials tackled bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Later Shaykh Salim attended a demonstration of an operation to combat terrorism by a special Egyptian police force.

During his meeting with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Shaykh Salim discussed consultations and cooperation at all levels.

The spokesman added that both also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and ways to bring to it an end, and the ongoing Palestinian revolt in the occupied Arab territories.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY quoted Shaykh Salim following the meeting as saying that both his highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt have identical policies in confronting various Arab issues.

Shaykh Salim stressed that both leaders agree on developing bilateral relations in compliance with Arab, Islamic and international issues, MENA said.

Following the meeting Shaykh Salim called on Egyptian Premier 'Atif Sidqi discussing issues aimed at enhancing bilateral relations, the spokesman said.

Speaking to Radio Cairo, Shaykh Salim said his visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and to take a close view on the Egyptian expertise in the security field as well as possibilities of benefitting from this expertise.

The Kuwaiti official arrived here Tuesday to take part in the scientific seminar on contemporary Arab security issues.

Omani Interior Minister Concludes Visit

NC111848 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—Omani Minister of Interior Shaykh Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib left here this afternoon after a few days' visit during which he attended celebrations marking Egypt's Police Day.

He also took part in a seminar on contemporary security issues held at the police academy.

During his stay Shaykh Badr had talks with his Egyptian counterpart Zaki Badr on ways of boosting inter-Arab security cooperation, means of combatting crime and terrorism as well as the extradition of criminals.

Al-Biltaji Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM121043 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
6 Feb 88 p 21

[Interview with Information Authority Director Mamduh al-Biltaji by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Text] [Zaytun] There has been talk of the possibility of withdrawing the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv in protest at the Israeli repression.

[Al-Biltaji] A decision to withdraw an ambassador has to realize a definite interest, and such decisions are not made just to confirm positions or to make a heroic gesture.

[Zaytun] It has been said that Egypt does not want to sever ties with Israel, since it is gambling on Shim'on Peres and his possible success in the forthcoming Israeli elections.

[Al-Biltaji] We are not placing our bets on anyone, and it is not up to us to chose the Israeli negotiating party. We are dealing with an Israel that has not fulfilled the pledges regarding acceptance of an international peace conference. These pledges were made by Peres on behalf of his government when he was prime minister at the Alexandria meeting in September 1986, while Yitzhaq Shamir persists in rejecting an international peace conference formula on which there is international, regional, and Palestinian consensus.

[Zaytun] President Mubarak's tour of the Gulf region has been accompanied by forecasts of strong military cooperation between the states of the region and Egypt in which Egypt would send 10,000 of its troops in exchange for $10 billion.

[Al-Biltaji] These predictions are untrue. Besides, it is inconceivable that the press should be careless in dealing with military secrets, since we ought to handle such matters with great caution because they concern public national security. However, we cannot deny that bilateral cooperation exists between Egypt and other Arab states, especially the Gulf states, with regard to military or other aspects.

[Zaytun] In your opinion, what is the appropriate way to ensure Gulf security, and what would be Egypt's contribution in this regard?

[Al-Biltaji] The Gulf situation, as Egypt sees it, is becoming more dangerous because of the Iranian leadership's insistence on rejecting peace and mediation efforts and its nonacceptance of implementation of a UN Security Council resolution that received the approval of the all the Arabs, including Iraq, and the international community. The dangers to Gulf security and consequently to pan-Arab security are still pressing. Furthermore, Egypt has frequently stated through President Mubarak that Egypt's national security is not separate from the Gulf's security, a stance that stems from an established outlook embodied in the unity of pan-Arab security.

[Zaytun] Some Arab statements have been issued recently concerning an approaching end to the war. Do you have any information confirming that?

[Al-Biltaji] What is said from time to time by some officials or the media concerning an approaching end to the war or the possible success of mediation between Iran and the Gulf is wishful thinking. I believe that on such fateful issues relating to pan-Arab security we must take matters seriously; we must show a strong desire to work toward preparing and confronting any real dangers.

[Zaytun] Your discussion about Egypt's security being tied up with the Gulf's security relates to current talk that Egypt will implement the Arab joint defense treaty in order to defend the Gulf. It is well known that the treaty is part of the Arab League Charter, so how can Egypt's commitment to the treaty be reconciled with its present nonaffiliation with the Arab League?

[Al-Biltaji] Egypt adheres to the Arab League Charter and to the joint defense treaty. We see the League as a forum, a framework, and a regional organization that must serve aims, activities, and joint Arab action. On the basis of our participation in the Gulf with our brothers in the service of the higher interests and common factors which form the basis of the Arab League, we do not stint on giving assistance to them in the event of mutual danger befalling us. Therefore, my warning is that if the war continues in the present manner, its effects will reach the Arab Maghreb because its continuation clearly reveals that it is not a war of borders. Nobody will escape from its direct and indirect destructive effects. We are, therefore, prompted to speed up our efforts to end the bloodshed in order to protect our pan-Arab security, our national soil, our higher interests, our independence, and our sovereignty.

[Zaytun] I did not quite get an answer to my question concerning the Arab League. How are your moves with regard to the treaty compatible with the fact that you are not a member of the Arab League?

[Al-Biltaji] As I said, Egypt is committed to the League's Charter and treaty, and this prompts me to say that we still have our membership in the League because we consider the decisions of the 1979 Baghdad summit, which suspended Egypt's membership in the League, to be null and void since it contravened two clauses of Articles 2 and 18 of the Charter. Article 2 stipulates that the League's headquarters is Cairo, and Article 18 makes consensus a precondition for freezing the membership of any state; such a consensus was not achieved, as we know.

[Zaytun] But do you not view the signing of the peace agreement with Israel as a contravention of the League's Charter?

[Al-Biltaji] There is no contravention. The agreement reached does not mean a violation of the Charter. When Egypt ratified the agreement it did not violate any national commitment, whether legal or subjective, especially toward established causes such as the Palestine cause, Iraq, or Arab solidarity. Furthermore, during the period of the break with Egypt the League has not been able to confront the principal challenges faced by the Arab nation, such as the Palestinian cause and its serious complexities, the Lebanese crisis, the Gulf war, and the Arab disputes.

[Zaytun] The recent Amman summit's decision allowed each state to resume its relations with Egypt, but without a return to the Arab League. Is a future move anticipated in this regard?

[Al-Biltaji] The Amman summit has certainly started to clear the air among the Arabs and to consolidate the strategic Arab outlook concerning the two issues of Palestine and the Gulf war. These good moves must be followed by other moves, and the ongoing consultations among Arab leaders must make it possible to create machinery for joint Arab action in order to implement the strategic outlooks.

U.S. Duality on Israeli Violations 'Perplexing'

JN102050 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
9 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Perplexing Question"]

[Text] The Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International have agreed that human rights violations have become a daily practice by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. The UN Security Council in two resolutions—the first of which was accepted by the United States while the second was vetoed by it—has also confirmed these practices, calling on Israel to abide by the Geneva conventions with respect to the treatment of Palestinian civilians. These conventions call for protecting civilians in occupied territories and ban their deportation by force

However, the United States has adopted different stands in these three organizations with respect to the condemnation of Israel for its violation of Palestinian human rights. If we set aside Amnesty International, given that it is not a political organization, how can we explain the dissimilarity between the U.S. stand in the UN Security Council, which has its seat in New York, and its stand in the Human Rights Commission, which has its seat in Geneva, while not forgetting that the two are UN bodies? The U.S. representative at the UN Security Council opposed and vetoed the recent resolution condemning Israel. He justified this stand by saying that there is no need for another resolution that will only reaffirm the UN Security Council's stand adopted a few weeks ago. The U.S. representative deemed it excessive for the UN Security Council to issue another resolution confirming its stand and calling for a suspension of Israel's measures of oppression, which continued to take place following the issuance of the first resolution

At the same time, we see the U.S. representative at the Human Rights Committee in Geneva has criticized these measures of oppression, announcing that his country would like to affirm that Israel's deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories violates the Geneva conventions.

This means that the United States believes there really are violations of the Palestinians human rights, which deserve to be denounced and condemned in Geneva, while it does not believe that it should condemn Israel for these violations in New York.

This strange duality in stands is eye-catching if we view it from two points: the first is the continuation of the acts of oppression by Israel on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, acts condemned by the world at large; and the second, the initiation of the U.S. shuttle moves in the Middle East to submit new ideas or even to discuss previous ideas. The question that arises is how can one believe something may come out of these U.S. moves to solve the problem while the United States adopts a dual stand on the same issue?

This is a perplexing question.

Dailies Criticize Israeli Territorial Policy

NC110711 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR welcomes the statement of the EC foreign ministers condemning repressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people. The paper says that Europe's concern about such measures is basically due to the fact that Europe is affected by any serious events in the Middle East.

In Thursday's editorial the paper says: While we welcome this statement, we would like to see the European position take a practical direction in response to the Israeli deviations in dealing with the inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, making Israel feel the practical effects of European indignation and condemnation.

The paper contends that the EEC can exert economic pressure on Israel, which is linked with the European states by numerous economic interests and is trying to seek concessions for its exports to EEC states.

In conclusion, the paper says that such pressures are perhaps the only means to force Israel to respect international positions and make it realize the damage resulting from its refusal to abide by human principles and international laws.

Under the headline "A Historic Viciousness," AL-AHRAM says that the Israeli occupation forces have entered the annals of history with their weapons and innovative tools in their futile attempt to end the Palestinians' revolutionary uprising and to torture children to the point of breaking the arms and hands that throw stones.

In its editorial Thursday the paper notes that voices have risen even in Israel itself, warning of the consequences of such distasteful actions. These actions are deplored and condemned by every living conscience, even by those in military uniform because such despicable actions totally exceed a soldiers' duties and violate military traditions. Such practices, AL-AHRAM says, have made the occupation forces look like bands of roving thugs.

Wide-scale beatings of innocent young people will transform them into a future army of hardened fighters, fueled by hatred and bent on revenge. Such would be the unfortunate outcome of Israel's unbridled violence. The beatings will not thwart the stone-throwers, AL-AHRAM concludes.

Israeli Settlement Practices Provoke Aggression

JN092156 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
8 Feb 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Why Do Jewish Settlers Step Up Their Provocations?"]

[Text] The Israeli snakes have come out to the occupied Palestinian territories under the name of settlements. They have recently increased their activities to play their accurately drawn up role in helping silence any Arab voice in the West Bank and Gaza that calls for an end to the Israeli occupation.

There is no doubt that the escalation of provocative actions by the Israeli settlers to protect the Israeli forces is closely linked to the continuous Palstinian uprising, which endangers the existence of scores of settlements established on usurped lands in Palestinian residential areas. These settlements play the role of strongholds in supporting the occupation and pave the way for securing a Jewish majority in the occupied territories by gradually increasing the number of settlements.

Despite all of the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council on the illegality of establishing settlements in occupied territories belonging to another nation, the Israeli authorities proceed with their devilish plan by spending tens of thousands of dollars donated by Jews in the United States and elsewhere, hoping that these settlements will be a nucleus for Israel's annexation of all Palestinian territories.

It was recently noticed that the residents of the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories have doubled their provocative actions against Palestinian inhabitants who have a legal right to claim all of occupied Palestine. As a result, aggressions against the Palestinian people are continually encouraged and supported by the Israeli occupation authorities, who overlook crimes against Arab citizens but use all types of deterrence weapons when the victim is Jewish.

The impudence and arrogance of the extremist religious group called Gush Emunim that controls the settlements went so far that it urged the complete removal of one of the Palestinian villages in the West Bank because two Jews were wounded there.

It is not strange that one of the points in the peace initiative recently launched by President Husni Mubarak calls for halting Israel's settlement process in the occupied territories because the establishment of settlements is aimed at hampering any attempt to restore peace and end the Israeli occupation.

Israeli 'Crimes' Against Palestinians Excessive

NC090746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT
9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper says that the Israeli leaders are making an unforgiveable error by insisting on their aggressive policy. The paper stresses that they will have to pay the price sooner or later, and that they will not enjoy any measure of peace or stability as long as the aggressive and repressive policy continues against the Palestinian people whom they want to enslave forever.

In its Tuesday editorial, AL-AKHBAR states that the Israeli leaders' incessant crimes, the daily bloodshed in the occupied land, and Israel's violation of all international laws and moral and human principles will not go unpunished. The Israeli leaders, the paper states, have exceeded the limits and persisted in their sins, believing that the force they have mustered in a comparatively short time will continue. They think that they will always be capable of pursuing this evil and aggressive course to achieve all their cunning and illegal goals, flouting all international laws and charters. Their morbid imagination makes them think that they can do what they want with the occupied Palestinian territory and restore the law of the jungle which disappeared centuries ago. The paper exhorts the Israeli leaders to recall the lessons of the recent past which show that those who perpetrate crimes against peoples will not go unpunished, no matter how much time elapses.

Foreign Ministry Official, PLO Envoy Confer

NC101656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT
10 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Dr Taha al-Farnawani, head of the Palestine desk at the Egyptian Foreign ministry, met today with Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge

d'Affaires in Cairo, for the second time in 48 hours. The situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the international developments in the Palestinian issue were discussed at the meeting.

Al-Qidrah also met with Staff Major General Kazim al-Zanati, the governor general of the Gaza Strip [title as received].

Socialist Party Leader Meets With 'Arafat

PM101641 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Shukri Discusses With 'Arafat Ways of Supporting Uprising"]

[Text] A Socialist Labor Party delegation headed by party leader Ibrahim Shukri met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat twice last week in Tunisia.

The party delegation, which participated in the League of African Socialist and Democratic Parties conference, discussed with the Palestinian leader current developments in the occupied territories and the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian people, whose uprising has entered its 3d month.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] pointed out that the PLO leadership is looking into every way of promoting the uprising and ensuring its continuation. From the 1st day he had issued an order against the use of weapons so as not to give the Zionists the opportunity to carry out massacres against the Palestinian people, while at the same time continuing the military operations in areas far removed from the places of demonstrations and strikes—such as the daily operations from the Lebanese borders and the two big operations in Haifa that led to the blowing up of a munitions factory and the setting on fire of an oil refinery.

'Arafat confirmed that the time has not yet come to adopt a decision on civil disobedience, which is being studied in order to implement it at the right time when all the necessary conditions are present.

Ibrahim Shukri reaffirmed complete solidarity and backing for the Palestinian people's revolution, and informed the Palestinian leader of the steps being taken by the Labor Party and the Egyptian opposition in general to support the Palestinian uprising. He reaffirmed the party's desire to participate in the ship of returnees which will carry 100 Palestinian deportees to the port of Haifa. Furthermore, the two leaders have agreed to continue consultations by various means in order to strengthen coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples during this historical phase.

It is worth mentioning that the Labor Party delegation included Majdi Ahmad Hussayn and Dr Salah 'Abdallah, both members of the People's Assembly, and Hamdi al-Sa'id, a member of the Higher Committee.

Briefs

Grant Agreement With Britain

Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—Egypt and Britain today signed a cooperation agreement under which the latter is to extend to the former a grant of three million sterling pounds to be used in developing a programme aimed at raising the efficiency of the administrative staff in the industrial public sector. The agreement was signed by Minister of State for Cabinet and Administrative Development Affairs Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd and the director of the British Cultural Center in Cairo. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in English 1740 GMT 11 Feb 88 NC*]

Libya

Nicaragua's Ortega Conveys Thanks for Support

LD112205 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, in which he has expressed his thanks and appreciation for the brother leader of the revolution's firm stance supporting the Nicaraguan people. He added: We convey to you our thanks and gratitude and we appreciate your feelings for us, as well as your understanding of our circumstances.

President Ortega added: We are in dire need of more cooperation and solidarity given the current international political developments, particularly during the era of this crazy U.S. Administration. He stressed that the Nicaraguan revolution must continue in order to preserve Nicaragua.

Daniel Ortega pointed out in his message to the brother leader of the revolution that the situation in Panama is critical today, particularly since a conspiracy against the Panamanian people and its revolutionaries is being overtly hatched. He stressed that Nicaragua will continue its efforts at all levels until the Nicaraguan revolution is triumphant.

East Sahara Basic People's Congress Meets

LD111204 Tripoli JANA in English 1050 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal [name as received], Al-Nuwar [February] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Basic People's Congress in Eastern Sahara held yesterday an emergency meeting for its session of 1987.

Several items on the agenda were discussed on matters pertaining to the situation in the eastern Sahara, the revolutionary programme, pan-Arab affairs, apart from organizational and procedural resolutions.

The masses have affirmed their resolve to defy imperialist and Zionist plots aiming at imposing capitulationist solutions through puppet regimes.

On the situation in eastern Sahara, it has been stressed that it is now subjected to a spate of colonizing invasion according to a crusade scheme aiming at expelling the inhabitants of this region and distorting its identity by planting an alien body therein separating the Libyan and Egyptian people similar to what has been done in [word indistinct] Palestine. Such an eventuality poses a threat against the Arab nation particularly in this region which is a bridgehead of unity between the eastern and western parts of the Arab fatherland.

The Egyptian regime is keen on making life difficult for the people there giving the minimum of utilities in a bid to force the people to leave it thereby becoming able to sell it to foreign colonialists in the shade of the open-door policy. This region has become an arena for U.S. military manoeuvres and bases thereby threatening the Arab nation and its revolutionary forces [words indistinct] that the Egyptian regime in coordination with the U.S. attempt to bury nuclear waste in this region thereby posing a threat to annihilate the people there.

The congress masses have stressed their support to the pan-Arab role assumed by the great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader and their continuing efforts to defend the [word indistinct] and achieve the overall Arab unity.

These masses have hailed the people's revolution led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine against the Zionist enemy.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Meets With Iranian Envoy 12 Feb

NC120745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires in Khartoum has met with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. They discussed bilateral relations and important regional and international problems, including the Islamic Republic's support for the recent Palestinian people's movement. The Central News Unit reports that in view of the lofty Islamic status of the martyred Mahdi al-Hakim, whose assassination by mercenary elements affiliated to Zionism and world oppression was designed to tarnish the Islamic prestige and sovereignty of the Sudanese Government and people, the prime minister was requested to submit the results of the inquiry to world Islamic public opinion, once the criminals' identity is known and they have been arrested. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed his gratitude and assured the Iranian charge d'affaires that the investigation commission is pursuing the matter unceasingly and firmly, and that the findings will be placed at the disposal of world public opinion, without any regard for political considerations.

Minister on Communications Protocol With Libya

EA111940 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Mr Aldo Ajo Deng, minister of transport and communications, has given a briefing on the steps being taken to implement a postal services and communications protocol signed last September in Khartoum between Sudan and Libya. These steps took place in the minister's office yesterday during a meeting between the minister and a visiting post and communications delegation from the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Ways of boosting relations between the two countries within the framework of technical cooperation in the spheres of mail, wire, and wireless communications were discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi on Committee To Hold Talks with Rebels

EA111927 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Feb—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said Thursday that a national committee comprising all political parties will be set up to carry out negotiations with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and establish peace in the country.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in a statement here Thursday that a national personality will be nominated for the chairmanship of the committee. He told journalists that the government would not continue contacts with the concerned parties, but said that such contacts would be made through the representatives of the government parties in the committee.

Speaking on the state of emergency in the country, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said it had scored moderate success and (?achieved a situation) in the war zones resulting in the containment of aggressive actions in south Kordofan and armed robbery in Darfur.

However, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi conceded that the state of emergency had not come up with considerable achievement as far as the basic commodities are concerned due to weakness of control and popular participation and shortage in commodities. [sentence as received] He said the government is considering ways of accelerating popular participation and announced the arrival of some exported commodities. Only abundance can defeat black market, he said.

Commentary on Talks With Mercy Committee

EA111845 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] We now present a commentary on the meeting of the Islamic-Christian Mercy Committee and the SPLM-SPLA, contributed to Radio SPLA by Captain Stem Yaak Atem.

From 27 January to 6 February this year delegates of the SPLM-SPLA and those of the Islamic-Christian Mercy Committee, an affiliate of the Islamic-Christian Peace Council, met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting, aimed at discussing the relief situation in war- and famine-affected areas of the south, was initiated by the Council of the Religious Sudanese Leadership.

The patrons of the Council are Mr Idris al-Banna, deputy head of the five-man Council of State, and Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, member of the Council of State. The Mercy Committee delegation consisted of Al-Shaykh al-Tayyib, the imam of one of the biggest mosques in Omdurman; Mawlana Siddiq 'Abd al-'Ay of the high court; Rev (Isekel Kut Jok), and Dr Zakariya Wani, both of the Sudan Council of Churches; (Abuna Yesus) of the Coptic Church; and Dr (Haj Ahmad), who said he neither represented the clergymen nor the government. The SPLM-SPLA delegates were: Uncle Joseph Oduho; Alternate Commander Alfred Lado Gore; Alternate Commander Deng Alor Kuol; and Captain Atem Yaak Atem. [passage omitted]

The SPLM-SPLA delegation requested that no statement be made to the press while the discussions were still in progress. The Mercy Council delegation accepted the suggestion because they also believe by making statements to the media, both sides could prejudice the deliberations.

The SPLM-SPLA still abides by this agreement. The discussions began in a friendly atmosphere and were punctuated with light humor.

However, both sides were serious in their concern for the suffering of the Sudanese affected by famine and war and how to alleviate their plight. This explains why the meeting lasted 10 days. Both sides talked extensively and listened patiently. There were practical problems on both sides to be explained and defended. As the SPLM-SPLA observes the agreement to keep what was discussed secret, this commentary cannot reveal specific issues being discussed. However, it suffices to say the subject was how the Mercy Council could deliver food to areas under the SPLA's control and those controlled by the government. All sides agreed at the end that the subject was a process and could not be finalized at one meeting but in a series of meetings. It was in the light of this understanding that in the last session the two sides agreed that it was necessary for adjournment for both delegations to consult their respective organizations.

On the day the delegation of the council returned to Khartoum, Information Minister Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm was quoted by the BBC as saying that the talks between the government delegation, meaning the members of the Islamic-Christian Peace Council, and the rebels, meaning the SPLM-SPLA, had been terminated by the government. It is to be recalled that on 2 February one of the members of the Council's delegation told an AFP correspondent that they were not an official delegation.

The government's decision is confusing. If the delegation of the clergymen who said they had nothing to do with the government except to get an authorization to meet the movement, then where does the government take the unilateral decisions? [sentence as heard]

The SPLM-SPLA for its part, has maintained that despite the prime minister's recent statement in which he said he was going to fly both weaponry, troops, and food to the south simultaneously, the movement would continue to talk with the delegation of the Islamic-Christian Peace Council and any other organization interested in serving the starving Sudanese.

The position of the movement remains the same. Keep politics out of humanitarian efforts aimed at saving the lives of the innocent people caught between crossfire. That was also the message of the two delegations.

Prime Minister To Consider Ministerial Changes

EA111934 Khartoum SUNA in arabic 1722 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 11 feb (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced here that ministerial changes will be considered in connection with the southern parties' representation in the government on the basis of the Transitional Sudan Charter signed in the [word indistinct] past.

His excellency told pressmen today that talks are continuing with the southern parties and the Sudanese National Party on their role and participation in the government. There will also be a meeting of the coordination committee of the two ruling parties, to consider the outstanding points between them. He added that he will be presenting a statement to the Constituent Assembly on areas of agreement.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Speedboats Attack Danish Supertanker

NC120633 Paris AFP in English 0625 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, Feb 12 (AFP)—Iranian speedboats attacked a Danish supertanker, the "Kate Maersk," in the southern Gulf early Friday, wounding at least three crew members, maritime sources in the region said.

They could not confirm reports that one of the crew had been killed.

The 300,000-tonne "Kate Maersk" radioed distress signals after the attack which occurred between the United Arab Emirates coast and the abandoned Iranian oil platform of Rostam, the sources said.

Details of damage to the supertanker were not immediately available.

It was the third Iranian attack in three days on neutral shipping in reprisal for Iraqi air raids aimed at blocking Iranian oil exports.

Rostam has apparently not been used since it was bombarded last October by the U.S. Navy in reprisal for a missile attack on a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker.

PDRY

'Diplomatic Sources' Deny Death of Al-Bid

JN101430 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Moscow—Diplomatic sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that the surgical operation performed on 'Ali Salim al-Bid has succeeded and that the YSP Central Committee secretary general is in good health.

The sources denied reports that the YSP Central Committee secretary general had died and added that press correspondents in Moscow can visit him at any time. Soviet sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the Soviet health minister had visited Al-Bid yesterday and that the USSR will issue a statement on the operation and Al-Bid's health condition.

Political Bureau Reviews Oil Investment Report

EA111938 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] At its meeting this morning, chaired by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, the YSP Political Bureau reviewed a report by Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, who led our delegation to the discussions held in Ta'izz with brothers in the northern part of the homeland. These discussions concerned the demarcation of an area for joint investment in oil between the Shabwah and Ma'rib Governorates and other necessary measures connected with this. It reviewed the cordial and responsible atmosphere that prevailed at the discussions. The two sides decided to continue the discussions in Aden next Monday, 15 February.

Al-'Attas on Unity, Iran-Iraq, Egypt Ties

EA111812 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Tomorrow, 11 February, Democratic Yemen observes the Day of the Yemeni Revolutionary Martyrs who gave their lives in support of the people's cause and for freedom, independence, sovereignty, progress, prosperity, and unity. To mark the occasion a rally was held this evening in the hall of the late 'Abdallah ba Dhib Scientific Socialism Institute. It was attended by Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the [YSP Central Committee] Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee; as well as ministers, the Presidium, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps, families of the martyrs, fighters of the liberation war, and a large number of citizens.

At the rally, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas delivered a speech on behalf of the party and government in which he saluted reverentially and with pride the souls of the glorious martyrs and the immortal sons of the Yemeni people. He emphasized that the cause for which they gave their lives will triumph and that their dream of a united, prosperous, and free Yemen will be achieved regardless of the obstacles and sacrifices demanded. [passage omitted]

He then touched on Yemeni unity and the recovery of the unity of the Yemeni land and people. He pointed out that experience of the past has shown that the enemies of Yemeni unity are the same as the enemies of the principles of the two revolutions. It also shows that unity must be achieved on the basis of those principles which must be maintained through peaceful action, democratic dialogue, and increasing participation by the masses in this historic operation.

He said that the experience of the national movement, its efforts and rich lessons, has confirmed in a manner that leaves no room for doubt that the atmosphere is appropriate for serious unification action, because it is an atmosphere of peace, cooperation, dialogue, and confidence. Any attempt to spoil this atmosphere has only one goal: to strike against the cause of unity and to deepen division. He expressed pride in the progress of the unity march achieved so far and the high level of fraternal relations between the leaders of the two parts of

the homeland, and their determination to develop them in the service of common goals and out of sincere belief in the people's cause—the cause of Yemeni unity. He stressed determination to continue the sincere efforts for the recovery of Yemeni unity through democratic and peaceful dialogue with the brother leaders in the northern part of the homeland and the further development of all areas of unification work. [passage omitted]

In his speech he appealed to all the world's peace-loving countries to show their solidarity with the Palestinian people. He asked them to provide various forms of material, moral, and political support for their 3-month old patriotic revolution, until it achieves victory. He said the uprising confirms that the only way to solve the Middle East conflict and settle the Palestinian issue is recognition of the inalienable and just rights of the Palestinian people. He said that the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, is the right framework for a just and durable solution to the conflict in the Middle East and the cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

He expressed concern about the continuing, destructive war between Iraq and Iran and the ongoing military presence of the imperialist forces, led by Washington, in the Gulf waters. He reiterated our country's call for an end to the war, the withdrawal of naval forces, the settling of problems between the two countries through peaceful negotiations, and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

With regard to the Lebanese cause, Brother al-'Attas said that the unity, Arab character, independence, and sovereignty of Lebanon must be maintained. He described them as basic prerequisites for an end to the crisis resulting from the continued Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon. He said our country believes that the alliance between the Lebanese nationalist forces, Syria, and the Palestinian revolution provides major leverage. He affirmed that it is a prerequisite for the liberation of the south and the recovery of its status.

He stated that our country is making continuous and sincere efforts to clarify the Arab atmosphere, in order to recover Arab solidarity in the face of great challenges, on the basis of opposition to Zionism and imperialism and overcoming the primary bilateral contradictions. He pointed out that Democratic Yemen's foremost concern is to see good relations prevail between the countries of the region and those adjacent to it. He advocated understanding, mutual confidence, and cooperation between them in the interests of their peoples and the preservation of their security and stability. He stressed the need to secure the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea against all the different factors of tension and the presence of naval fleets, particularly nuclear-armed ones.

Brother al-'Attas stressed that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Democratic Yemen and the Arab Republic of Egypt, which was announced yesterday in both Cairo and Aden, is a response to the realities of history. These confirm that the factors binding Egypt and Yemen are firm and permanent while the factors separating them are transient and temporary. He stressed that the resumption of relations between the two countries is in response to the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the higher interest of the Arab nation. He clarified, however, that the resumption of relations will never be at the expense of the principled stand of our country toward the Camp David accords.

He said that our country's rejection of the Camp David accords is one of the durable principles in our foreign policy, which rejects any form of separate solution for the Middle East conflict, arising out of the Palestinian cause. He stressed that Arab solidarity and support for the Palestinian revolution, progress toward an international conference, recognition of the legitimacy and oneness of PLO representation, and rejection of separate settlement are the basis for Democratic Yemen's resumption of diplomatic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

Political, Technical Committee Reformation

EA072206 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The Political Bureau of the YSP Central Committee held its regular meeting this morning chaired by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Central Committee. The meeting covered a number of subjects on its agenda. Special attention was devoted to the importance of accelerating work on the documentation and compilation of the history of the Yemeni revolution and another project involving a series of books on the struggle of the Yemeni people, including the 26 September and 14 October glorious revolutions.

The Political Bureau approved the reformation of the Political and Technical Committee which was formally chaired by the brother martyr 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar as follows:

'Ali Salim al-Bid—chairman;

Salim Salih Muhammad, member; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member; Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member; Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member; Sa'id Salih Salim, member; Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member; Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, member; Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, member; Dr Sayf Sa'il, member; Haytham Qasim Tahir, member; Salim Muhammad Jubran, member; Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr, member; Sha'fal 'Umar 'Ali, member; 'Abd al-Ilah Muthanna Husayn, member; and Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member.

The Political Bureau has also approved the formation of a Secretariat of the Political and Technical Committee to carry out duties and it is formed of the brothers whose names follow:

Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr—chairman;

'Abdallah Muthanna Husayn, member; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member; Dr Ahmad Salih Alawi, member; Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih, member; (Ahmad al-Hubayshi), member; Dr ('Abd al-Ghani Maghtari), member; Dr 'Abd al-Warith 'Abd al-Ghani, member; Sayf 'Ali Muqbil, member; 'Abd al-Wasi Qasim, member; Khalid 'Abd al-Jalil, member; Dr 'Umar 'Ali, member; Dr Husayn 'Ali Hasan, member; 'Ali Muhammad Abduh al-Saruri, member; and 'Abd al-Ilah 'Ali Murshid, member.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Talal Comments on Mideast Situation

PM081240 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Feb 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by Francoise Chipaux in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Riyadh—Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 23d son of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's founder and King Fahd's brother, has his offices in a rather modest, gray, two-story building. Prince Talal, who is known for his humanitarian work for UNICEF and for the Gulf States Program for UN Development Organizations which he founded in 1981, is nonetheless a politician who has a lucid and uncompromising view of the Arab world's state and its conflict with Israel.

"I want peace with Israel," he said immediately, "but I want a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and all the Arab states. The Israeli-Arab conflict is our main problem. We must work to solve it. The last Amman summit gave its support to an international peace conference. But at the 1982 Fes summit, King Fahd's plan called for peaceful coexistence among all states in the region. Of course, that concerns Israel.

"Israel is now opposed to any possible peace settlement because it believes that it cannot live in peace with the Arabs. Of course, that is not true. The Israelis are relying exclusively on their military strength. A few weeks ago, the Israeli president, on a visit to London, said that the riots in the occupied Arab territories were being stirred up by fundamentalist groups financed by Saudi Arabia. You cannot imagine how happy I was. I wonder why we should not support and finance Muslim and nationalist movements to combat Israeli colonization."

"Israel," he continued, "is now divided into two factions. We must encourage and support those in Israel who support an international conference."

With regard to the Arab world's divisions, Prince Talal said that there are several reasons for them, but "the main one," he said, "is the stupidity of some of the Arab world's leaders. Some of them have the opportunity to achieve progress, but they are not taking any action, and are unable to adapt to the modern world. Some say that we are divided and have failed to achieve the level of development which we ought to have because of foreign interventions and especially because of the West which allegedly does not want us to progress.

"I cannot really say that. I have many friends in the West. When I talk with them, I feel it is we who are responsible. We cannot blame the West for everything. And, of course, I think that the West's concern about Israel provides some explanation for things, but not the full explanation. In fact, Arab cooperation has so far been nonexistent. However, it is the only solution. Unless the Arab countries now really cooperate, the situation will worsen and there will be a disaster."

The Iran-Iraq War [subhead]

But harmony and cooperation cannot be decreed, and the prince has no answer to this dilemma. "Some Arab intellectuals, thinkers, and experts sometimes think that a revolution is needed," he said. "I do not agree. We have experienced coups, and, in fact, they made things worse."

With regard to the Iran-Iraq war, whose extension directly threatens Saudi Arabia, Prince Talal was clear: "In the long term, our problem is not Iran. We must think of coexisting and finding a way of talking with Iran to reach agreement and live in peace. I know that there are wise men on both sides, in Iran and in the Arab world. They ought to meet and draw up a solution."

With regard to Imam Khomeyni, Prince Talal was surprisingly moderate: "Khomeyni," he said, "has been a inspiration to oppressed Shi'ites for a long time. Throughout their history, the Shi'ites have, rightly or wrongly, felt persecuted. They always longed for a leader, until Khomeyni arrived. Finally, that glimmer of hope appeared in the shape of Khomeyni."

Does this mean that the Iran-Iraq war can lead to a Sunni-Shi'ite conflict? "Yes," Prince Talal immediately replied, "if the situation is not controlled in the near future. If we are working for dialogue with the Vatican and Christianity, why can we not work for dialogue between Sunnis and Shi'ites?"

The rise of Muslim fundamentalism must not be taken lightly, according to Prince Talal, who explained: "The ordinary people are Muslims. People support the fundamentalist movements. These are very strong feelings. Unfortunately, many of those movements are working to overthrow existing governments. It is that which we must prevent. But no Arab regime can disregard popular

feeling. The West must also realize that these movements have the support of ordinary people. Although these movements go too far, no government should ignore them."

The prince admitted that he sometimes encounters problems in persuading people to accept that Western civilization's technical progress does not imply adopting all aspects of Western civilization, particularly what some people call licentiousness and moral turpitude.

"Many people," the prince said, "refuse to see anything else, and the fundamentalist movements maintain their influence through such phenomena. The West is wrong to be afraid of this vital dialogue with Islam, because Islam is the greatest rampart against atheism and communism. Does the West think that Islam is so powerful that it could invade Paris, London, or Washington? That is no longer possible. That is why we now want to open dialogue with the West about its fear of Islam. Dialogue between Sunnis and Shi'ites, between Islam and Christianity, is the only way of moderating Islamic extremism."

Yemen Arab Republic

Australia's Foreign Minister Hayden Departs

JN111756 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] William Hayden, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, left Sanaa this afternoon following a 3-day visit to our country. During the visit he held talks on bolstering and promoting bilateral relations with the brother officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Economy, Supply, Trade, and Development [as heard]; and the Central Organ for Planning. In a predeparture statement to SABA', the Australian minister described his visit to our country as successful and useful. He pointed out that his talks with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister dealt with spheres of bilateral cooperation. The talks also touched on international issues of mutual interest, headed by the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war. He explained that he discussed bilateral trade cooperation with a number of officials at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade.

Hayden was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and the Australian ambassador to our country.

Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Departs

JN111519 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpt] (Fernados Bernardo Brish), Spanish deputy foreign minister, left Sanaa today following a 3-day visit to our country, during which he conveyed a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from King Juan Carlos of Spain. He also met with a number of officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade, and the Central Organ for Planning. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Outlines Philosophy of Arab Unity

PM111545 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
6 Feb 88 pp 9-11

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Fu'ad Matar on 30 January in Baghdad]

[Text] Matar: After what the [Arab] nation is presently going through, will it be able to rise again, or is this present stumble a natural thing that in the past has afflicted other nations which have managed to rise again? What I mean to say is that other nations have been through what the Arab nation is going through now, and that when these nations were suffering the worst kinds of conflicts and divisions, the Arab nation was prominent.

Husayn: No nation in the world has experienced the divisions that the Arab nation has throughout its historical formation, for many external and internal reasons. The Arab nation's political movement was united under Islam in the days of the prophet and, afterward, in the days of the orthodox caliphs, the Omayyads, and 'Abbasites. It was then fragmented into numerous entities that not only did not move in the same direction but also weakened one another. Now we are independent entities, which is no disgrace in itself. It is disgraceful, though, when we undermine each other's strength, either by taking away each other's chances of development and progress or by keeping all the entities backward and standing still.

Whenever divisions hit any nation that had risen and developed its own culture, that nation loses its influence and becomes a minor factor in the world community—with the exception of the Arab nation, which is distinguished from other nations by its ability to rise again and play its part in building human civilizations. Even if we did not have other reasons and examples that we could use as evidence of the Arab nation's greatness and its ability to play its human and cultural part, often under the worst circumstances, what we have already said is enough for us to maintain that the Arab nation is different from other nations. This encourages us to think in the long term, and makes us firmly and endlessly optimistic even under the worst conditions and circumstances.

The Arab nation is now in a state of labor that precedes a great birth, but different from the natural process. This is not only our view, it is the diagnosis made by our historical enemies. That is why the reactions escalate. Whenever labor reaches a point close to birth, the enemies escalate the violent confrontation and commit reserves they have never used before.

When Iran becomes an enemy exposed in its base and sinister methods, it does not mean that the nation is weak. When the enemies plot to prevent the nation's resurrection and crush its symbols, it means that the nation is strong and that a new mature and developed birth is on the way.

The enemies camp was not content with the presence of the Zionist entity, so it tried to involve other nations around the Arab nation and to revive hopeless grudges which have been dormant in the bowels of history, because the enemies of the Arab nation felt that the forces they had previously used were not enough to prevent the great birth the nation has been awaiting.

All this makes some members of the Arab nation despair and lose interest in building a new life; it leads them to believe that challenges and risks create conditions contrary to construction. We all have a desire to build a new developing nation, but some are so unhappy about the nation's present state of affairs that they have lost their hope for a great historic birth after this labor.

Matar: In what condition do you expect the baby [nation] to be born? For example, will he be fully developed and healthy, and will he, if we may say so, be the nucleus of new unity?

Husayn: The labor will end with the birth of a baby that, I believe, will this time be strong and capable of going forward in pursuit of the fulfillment of the Arab nation's objectives.

Will the baby be one of unity? That depends on how we view unity. I am an Arab first and a Ba'thist second. This sequence is not a mere technicality. Ba'thism is a frame of mind and conduct. At this stage of maturity, I consider it to be identical with Arabism, as it always was. Furthermore, Ba'thism is, in one way, a political expression; it is only natural, therefore, that we place the nation and Arabism before Ba'thism.

So, on the basis of this concept, as an Arab first and a Ba'thist second, I no longer view Arab unity in the same way as I did in the past. I no longer view the achievement of unity in the same way we imagined it as strugglers before the revolution or in the early years of the revolution. I look at what is beneficial to our struggle on the way to unity—beneficial methods and formulas are the ones that achieve good results—and at the methods and formulas which reflect principles. If a method is to achieve good results it must take into consideration the realistic possibilities as they really are, the efforts available, and the chances of change for the better, including Arab zeal. For such a method to be useful and effective the Arabs should contribute to it effectively.

We in actual fact are several entities, some with a deep-rooted history, and, though part of the Arab nation, special as political and cultural entities despite the political unity experiments the nation has pursued. So, with continued zeal for the principles and continuing aspiration to ultimate unity, I believe that unity should find its way to the hearts and minds before the search for legal and constitutional formulas is undertaken. On that basis I believe, for example, that unity between us and

Saudi Arabia, or between us and North Yemen, or between us and Kuwait or Jordan is stronger than the constitutional unity which existed between Egypt and Syria before the secession.

We can achieve unity when people believe in the importance of steps in building relations, when people are aware that the more constructive, joint, sincere, fraternal steps there are, the closer we get to the prospects of the future.

I believe that relations between most Arab states are progressing toward unity without any retreat, but that the old methods of achieving unity are receding. In other words, we no longer believe in the old method of achieving unity with a political declaration between two regimes as a first step toward comprehensive unity followed by a joint constitution for both countries. I believe that this approach actually places unity further away. Now, unity in essence and in its realistic revolutionary concept is getting closer. In other words, the old concepts of unity are drawing away while the essence and realistic concept of unity is coming nearer.

When the day comes when fraternal relations between two or more countries develop and interact to the point where it would be appropriate to give them a constitutional framework, we should not hesitate to do so. Then unity between sons of the same nation, having developed soundly in a suitable atmosphere, would be crowned with constitutional formulas reflecting that unity and mirroring the people's conscience. The people will be the faithful guardians of that unity. The people's conviction, above all, is what matters in all this because unity introduced from above—even when there is zeal for it at the level of the two leaderships—is exposed to setbacks, and when there is a setback the disadvantages by far outweigh the advantages. Therefore, this kind of step should not be taken before those concerned are sure that it stems from the people's alert conscience and has their profound approval.

Matar: Is this realistic vision a result of the war circumstances or does it reflect a natural process? I cannot conceal the feeling, Mr President, that what you are offering through AL-TADAMUN appears to be a unity ideology for what remains of the 20th century, so that there will be a more realistic Arab readiness by the next century—the century that we and our children and grandchildren will be meeting in 12 years time. This is not a long time if we bear in mind that the Iraq-Iran war is 8 years old and that the Lebanese war has been going on for as many years as are left of this century.

Husayn: While we had this concept before the war began in 1974, and it is recorded in notes I have written, we can say that all the years since 1974 have provided graphic daily examples as proof of the correctness of this course—the course of work for unity among the Arabs and not the course of unity according to the old methods. Unity for the Arabs is achieved by sacrifice, by perseverance, and by creating a healthy and fraternal atmosphere free from convulsive reactions and conflicts in which the aim is to pick the fruit before it is ripe.

Matar: Mr President, you seem to want to reassure the Arabs, especially those who think a strong Iraq would want to control and wield influence through its unity slogan, an Iraq that would want to dissolve a certain entity or erase a certain character.

Husayn: There must be complete reassurance in Arab relations. Mutual trust among Arabs is the firm foundation on which Arab unity should be built. If there is suspicion among Arab brothers, all talk of history and geography would be futile because suspicion breeds estrangement, prevents interaction, and therefore eliminates the chances of building the united Arab character. We want to build our greater home over our respective homes in our respective countries. We want it to be a home that would give our present homes strength, depth, firmness. To achieve that we must first trust one another, and avoid beating about the bush and hiding our true feelings. We feel close even to those who, judging by their temporary political position on the surface, appear to be not quite so close to us, but in whose hearts and consciences there is nothing to distance them from us. We feel distant from the sly ones who sell principles and values in the market of meanness and who say one thing and mean another.

Matar: It so happens that this interview with you is taking place just a few days before the 8th anniversary of the pan-Arab declaration you made to the nation 8 February 1980. When one considers what has happened to the nation since then, one wonders: Would it not have been better if, in a moment of conscience, that declaration was upheld, thus sparing the nation and those people from the Gulf to the ocean years of suffering?

And we ask: Should there be no unanimous approval, and then implementation, of that declaration just because it was put forward by one Arab president or, say, just because that reconciliatory formula was put forward by President Saddam?

On the 8th anniversary of that declaration may I ask the president if he still stands by it, or is it now just a file in the government archives, to stay there until circumstances are more favorable for it to be raised again as a plan?

Husayn: The pan-Arab declaration will live on for many years. We will continue to abide by its trends with increasing faith in its principles because it lays down the foundations of a bright and revitalized future for the Arab nation, a future which we believe the Arab nation must have.

Matar: When we read UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war we notice or we sense in it the spirit of the pan-Arab declaration. So we ask: Why was that declaration not implemented years ago, since it was the ideal formula for accord?

Husayn: Seeing that the pan-Arab declaration represented the Arab spirit, the big powers benefited from it, but not so the enemies of the Arabs.

Matar: Who are the enemies of the Arab nation?

Husayn: Let us define the enemies: Anyone who tries to obstruct the nation's progress as we have described it is an enemy of the nation. Sometimes the obstruction is partial and is meant to serve partial interests. That is one form. When the obstruction is deliberate, those who do it are enemies of the Arab nation. They assume certain names and characteristics, and after 5, 10, or 20 years assume different names and characteristics . Some names and characteristics might be dropped and others might appear. What is important is how the Arabs can get closer to one another and interact to create a new and bright situation—a situation where private affairs are understood and taken into consideration along the road of building the great home of trust and joint work, including work for unity between them, without that being a substitute for the legitimate individualities.

I am confident that many of our Arab brothers now understand us better than they did 10 years ago, and that the number of those who trust us, in their assessment of the present as well as the future, is increasing—that is what matters.

I tell you that the top task at present is promoting inter-Arab trust. Along with the other prerequisites, this will be the solid foundation of the desired Arab unity in the long run, and of every Arab action that benefits the Arab nation and gives to all its sons more strength, prosperity, and impregnability.

'Resistance Movement' Marks Iranian Anniversary

JN111308 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the National Resistance Council for Liberty and Independence, has called on the United Nations to impose an arms embargo on Iran.

In a message to the Iranian people marking the ninth anniversary of the Iranian revolution against the monarchy, Rajavi urged the UN members to boycott Iranian oil to prevent the Iranian regime from using the oil revenues to continue its war on Iraq. He asserted that peace and security in the region cannot be realized unless the Iraq-Iran war stops and the repressive Khomeyniite regime falls. He said it is now clear to the whole world that the Iranian regime will not last without war, repression, and terrorism.

In his message, Rajavi stressed the failure of the Khomeyniite regime to convince the youths to leave for the front. He said that the regime's military and political defeats are multiplying and that the Iranian people are cooperating with the resistance, adding that a power struggle is rife among the Iranian ruling circles.

Rajavi noted that the Khomeyni regime tortured and killed 140,000 political prisoners over the past 9 years despite the international denunciation of its human rights violations, and arrested 47,000 people in 1 year on charges of carrying out political activities against the regime.

The Iranian opposition leader emphasized that the Iranian regime should not be allowed to continue the war against Iraq in which more than 1.5 million men were either killed or wounded, millions of people rendered homeless, and hundreds of billions of dollars wasted, causing collapse in the Iranian economy.

Rajavi noted that the Iranian people's just resistance in search of peace and freedom began last year after the formation of the national liberation army, which is continuing in its victories and weakening the regime's forces, because scores of people are deserting the regime to join the national liberation army.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,018

JN111727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,018 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With full supremacy and high morale, our triumphant forces continued their brave combat activities last night and today, inflicting further losses on our enemies, the Khomeyniites, as follows:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force flew 81 combat missions against enemy economic installations today, as was reported in our Communique No 3,017, to destroy several scoundrel concentrations, including their weapons and equipment, in the operational sectors. After completing these missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's protection.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out 44 combat missions during which they inflicted important losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the aggressors. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector directed concentrated fire from various types of weapons against the enemy positions in front of them. They also engaged groups of its personnel and vehicles and

inflicted on them the following losses: 91 scoundrels killed and several others wounded, and 24 vehicles, 5 ammunition dumps, 1 armored personnel carrier, 5 infantry positions, and 1 observation post destroyed.

4. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one ammunition dump was blown up and four infantry positions were destroyed.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed and five assorted positions and two observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two SPG-9 guns, a machinegun emplacement, and an observation post were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. A 106-mm gun was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. Ten enemy personnel were killed and two rafts, a 106-mm gun, three infantry positions, and a medium gun emplacement were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

9. The enemy sustained the following losses in the VII Army Corps sector: five personnel were killed and an observation post, four ammunition dumps, a 120-mm mortar, three gun emplacements, and an infantry position were destroyed.

10. The Al-'Amiq Port's valiant force clashed with three enemy boats attempting to approach the port and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 February 1988

Two Iranian Boats Sunk

JN112020 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2007 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Statement by a military spokesman on 11 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Almighty God grants us continuous victories over the tyrant clique ruling in Iran, which insists on continuing the war and rejects peace calls. Our valiant naval force spotted three enemy boats attempting to approach the Al-'Amiq Port. The brave helicopter knights immediately raided the enemy boats, destroying and sinking two of them with their scoundrels on board at 1645 [1345 GMT] today. The third boat fled. The valiant knights returned safely to base.

[Dated] 11 February 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN120748 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Iraqi warplanes have carried out a successful raid against a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast. After scoring an accurate and effective hit against the target, the warplanes safely returned to base. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that in an effort to continue to deprive the Iranian regime of the economic resources that assist it in pursuing aggression against Iran, Iraqi warplanes had carried out the raid at 2305, or 2005 GMT, yesterday.

Leaders Examine Prospects For Peace, U.S. Plan

Shamir Seeks Clarifications

TA120658 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yig'al Rom and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Excerpts] [Rom] Good morning, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Rom] With your permission, we will remind our listeners of the main points of the U.S. initiative, which are: an international event which would take place in mid-April and which would replace the international conference, to be followed immediately afterward by direct deliberations between the elements in the region about interim settlements. The third stage, which is supposed to start sometime in December 1988, would involve direct meetings between all the elements in the region to discuss the permanent settlements. The Americans, so we hear, say that the timetable is an integral part of their plan, whereas you, sir, say there is time, there is no rush. Perhaps we should start with this point. Is there really time?

[Shamir] First of all, I did not say there is time and there is no rush. Of course, we all have time, and time must be used to think, discuss, and make decisions. Speediness results from agreement or disagreement or progress or a lack of progress in some kind of talks. At the moment, we have U.S. ideas, but there is as yet no plan, certainly not a consolidated plan. We only had one talk on the issue with U.S. envoy Murphy. He toured the region together with Philip Habib to try to feel the pulse of the sides and to ascertain what they accept and what they do not accept. For the time being, the Arabs do not agree to anything. As for Israel, it still has to receive clarifications and answers to various questions we raised. After all, this is what negotiations are all about. Negotiations cannot be conducted and peace can certainly not be attained through daily declarations of willingness to accept everything, to make all possible concessions. Negotiations cannot be conducted and peace cannot be attained this way.

[Ben-'Ami] Nevertheless, Mr Prime Minister, according to reports on what the two emissaries, Murphy and Habib, achieved, it appears that the United States now has to exert pressure on us or on you over two points: the international event or international meeting you mentioned, and the issue of deciding on the month of December as the target date for the start of negotiations on the permanent settlement, without taking the interim settlement into account. I would like first to ask you: Do you really reject these two points?

[Shamir] I am surprised at your knowledge of and your self-confidence about all the details. All these things are still being worked out and thought out by the Americans. All they want is to talk to us and to the Arab side, in order to try to reach a consensus. I believe we should, and in fact must, check each idea, each proposal, and offer our own ideas, in order to reach some sort of framework that will be acceptable to the sides.

At this point, nobody can discuss or decide on precisely what they agree or disagree with. There are principles and aims, and we should not forget that Israel made far-reaching concessions at Camp David, and nobody can come to us now and say: All that you gave up is unimportant. Now you must pay again for the same goods.

At Camp David, Israel yielded in two fields, and these concessions were decided on in consultation with the United States and Egypt. Both sides agreed on autonomy, which was a very important part of the accords, because they reached the conclusion that an agreement on the most difficult problem—the issue of sovereignty or, in other words, the permanent status—cannot be achieved. That is why they said: Let us establish autonomy for a certain period. They agreed on 5 years, in the belief that after or toward the end of this period, a new atmosphere would be created, an atmosphere that would emanate from coexistence and peace throughout these years, an atmosphere of mutual trust which would make it easier to discuss a permanent solution which must be acceptable to all sides.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, let me interrupt here and ask: When the Americans make their proposals, including the tight timetable, they do it with a feeling that time is running short and taking into account plans that did not work out in the past. This plan cannot be divorced from the events Israel is experiencing in the territories.

[Shamir] I believe that all the elements in Israel must decide not to negotiate and not to accept demands from any other side under pressure of stone throwing, disturbances, and Molotov cocktails.

[Rom] You mention all the elements in Israel. I pointed out earlier that the U.S. secretary of state may have to invest all his energies to persuade you and your colleague, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, to agree to the plan. Your colleague has already praised the U.S. plan. Yesterday, at the Labor Party Central Committee meeting at Bet Berl, he said that the events in the territories could have been avoided had we started negotiations in time. Let us hear what he said. [passage omitted]

Sir, I would like to deal with the theory that the problems in the territories must also be solved through political negotiations. What do you say about that?

[Shamir] I believe it is irresponsible in these times to tell the Arabs that they should increase their pressure by expanding the riots and disturbances and encouraging attacks on security forces, in order to achieve further concessions. In other words: What the Arabs want today is a total Israeli withdrawal not only from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, but from all of Eretz Yisra'el.

Ask them. Read their leaflets, in which they say that the Jews are caving in. The speech you just played for me confirms what these leaflets say: The Jews are giving in. If we want to negotiate, we must carefully examine each condition, each item, to determine whether or not it is line with out interests, and we must debate and negotiate. Otherwise, peace cannot be achieved. Mr Peres' way could lead to us giving up everything we have without reaching peace. We must not forget who achieved the first peace accord with an Arab country: not the doves, not Mr Peres and his friends, but to everyone's surprise it was Mr Begin, the great and terrible hawk.

[Ben-'Ami] But this was also after making concessions.

[Shamir] Certainly after a concession, an enormous concession. But now they come and tell us: Forget that, the concession has already been made. Now we want new concessions. The Arabs do not accept anything the Americans propose. This may be temporary, but what is this haste in rushing ahead and saying: We are prepared to accept everything? What is this? Is it wise to tell the Americans and the Arabs: Keep up the riots in Gaza so that we will not be able to restore order in Jerusalem? This is the meaning of Mr Peres' remarks. We will restore order in Jerusalem, but not at Gaza's expense.

[Ben-'Ami] Why not exploit the U.S. initiative to unite around it, to reach an agreement between the Labor Party and the Likud, the main components of the Cabinet? This could be the lever that will help the political initiative take off, that will help bring some sort of political solution or at least help move in the direction of a political solution. Do you believe the Likud and the Alignment can unite around this U.S. peace initiative?

[Shamir] I am willing. I am a great admirer of the national unity government, and I am certainly in favor of a united stand in negotiations with outsiders. But how can this be done when Peres stands up and says he has already conceded everything? With whom can I unite? Can I accept all his concessions even though he did not consult me, even though he did not ask anybody?

[Ben-'Ami] Why not attempt a dialogue? Why, for instance do you not sit down with Murphy together with Peres? Would this not be preferable to Murphy receiving reports from two different offices about two completely different positions?

[Shamir] I try all the time to achieve this, and I experience disappointment after disappointment. All my attempts at cooperation immediately boomerang. I show Mr Peres a letter, and several hours later all the journalists and all the media have it. Each step he takes is made in the dark and hidden from everybody. He wants to know what I do in order to sabotage it. How can negotiations be carried out together when your partner runs each day and each moment to the partner to the negotiations, the other side, and tells him: I am selling cheaper, do not listen to what Shamir says? In order to conduct negotiations together, we must first agree on principles, even before they are announced at Bet Berl.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, I would like to ask you something else. We give prime ministers and ministers the opportunity to address the people, but when they listen to us each morning they get totally confused. Reality is tough, the criticism each side levels at the other is harsh, and the situation is very unclear. What explanation can you give us? Perhaps one last sentence, as we are running out of time. [Shamir] I believe we must preserve the national unity government. We must not talk day and night about dissolving it, about the government resigning, about leaving the Cabinet, and about early elections. I am prepared to make a joint and united appearance, because our people deserve a special effort, but we should not rush and sell everything we have dirt cheap for the sake of staying in power.

[Rom] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

Peres Views Arab Response

TA120620 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Feb 88 pp 5, 13

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Menahem Shalev, "in Jerusalem this week": "The U.S. Initiative 'Is the Only Game in Town'"]

[Text] [Shalev] Mr. Peres, the peace process has been stalemated for a long time. Can you identify new elements in the American initiative which allow you to hope that it will achieve something? What's in it that didn't exist before?

[Peres] What's new, if anything, is the attempt to integrate procedure and substance. Until now, for the past 20 years, we have tried to discuss substance only to discover that there is no substance which is acceptable to all sides. The return to procedure—that is, to the international opening—was an attempt to break free of the contradictions that exist on the matter of substance.

The Americans are trying to conduct a preliminary examination of the parameters which can bring the sides together in order to soften the opposition of those who have objected to an international opening. After the

latter, negotiations will start and the interim settlement and the final settlement will be intertwined within a short space of time. These are new elements.

[Shalev] Have the Americans adopted the concept of an international opening that you recently promoted?

[Peres] The international conference is not a matter of principle in and of itself. It is the condition which allows Jordan to participate. I don't think that Jordan has retracted its position. What I tried to do is to take away from the international conference any capability of dictating to the sides, and this element remains in the American plan.

[Shalev] Do the Americans have a clear concept of what type of international opening they are advocating?

[Peres] The Americans must take the Jordanians into consideration. Just as they have difficulties with Israel, they have difficulties with Jordan. So I don't think that there will be any fundamental change. The change will be not in the essence of the conference, but in the softening-up process that will take place before it convenes.

[Shalev] Do you share American optimism on the Soviet response to the peace plan? Can the process advance without Soviet agreement?

[Peres] I believe that it can. If the Soviets see that Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the U.S. have reached agreement and that they are left with the option of not attending an international conference, they will prefer to come to a conference, even if they don't agree to its substance or to its powers.

What's more, the Americans have already notified the Soviets that they have initiated this activity. I assume that they will try to reach an understanding with the Soviets. The Americans are encouraged by the Soviet positions because there is apparently movement on the Afghanistan issue.

[Shalev] But you have been insisting that Jordan is apprehensive about the formation of a Soviet-Syrian-PLO axis which will oppose peace moves.

[Peres] Yes, but I believe that if the Soviets see that they have no veto power, they will prefer not to exclude themselves.

[Shalev] For months you have attempted to bridge the gap between the positions of Jordan's King Husayn and those of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Do you think the Americans can succeed where you have failed?

[Peres] Look, I am not an objective bystander sitting on the sidelines and placing bets. I will do my best so that the American initiative will succeed. It's the only game in town at this point. All the elements which existed before exist now, only in a tighter schedule and in an intertwined form.

But this also raises difficulties: The Likud will find it very hard to accept a linkage between the interim arrangement and the final settlement because we know that the final settlement is the Reagan plan, and the Reagan plan means territorial division.

When you remove the onus from the international conference, it is then placed on the final settlement. This is the main deficiency of the American plan.

I have a constructive attitude. If this is what they want to do, by all means, I support it.

[Shalev] The Americans propose that the talks on the final settlement will begin even if the talks on the interim settlement are not concluded. In these circumstances, is there any realistic chance for an interim settlement? Why should the Arabs, who have never liked the idea of an interim arrangement, negotiate it seriously?

[Peres] If the Arabs will be given a commitment regarding the period in which the interim arrangement will be in force, it will make things easier for them. Will they make do with three years? I really don't know.

On the other hand, I don't know if the Likud will accept the Reagan plan. But the very fact that the Americans have launched this initiative, and are trying to bridge the differences, is something which should be welcomed.

[Shalev] You were quoted this week as telling the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that we may have made a mistake by ruling out talks with local Palestinian leaders who are identified with the PLO, that perhaps we should have distinguished between the PLO abroad and PLO supporters here. Do you now believe that no arrangment can be reached with the Palestinians without the agreement—at least implicit—of the PLO?

[Peres] Let me say this. When I look at all the possible partners, I ask a number of questions: First, which is the partner that is capable of making decisions? The PLO, the inhabitants of the territories, or Husayn? And the answer is Husayn.

The second question is: Who is capable of implementing the decisions made? Again the answer is Husayn. He has a state, he has an army, he has a police force.

And the third question is: With whom is Israel capable of reaching an agreement? I say with Husayn more than with the PLO because with Husayn, one can reach an

element of demilitarization of territories, one can achieve a situation where the Jordan River is a security border. This is not the case with the PLO.

The Arabs—both Husayn and Mubarak—have said in recent days: Leave the matter of Palestinian representation to us.

I think we should distinguish between those whose political views conform to those of the PLO, and those who actually belong to the organization. We do not censor ideas. We censor weapons. Whoever comes with a gun in his pocket is unacceptable.

In retrospect, I believe that the municipal elections in the territories which were held in 1976 were a very wise move. These were the most democratic elections ever held in an Arab area in the Middle East. Twenty-four mayors were elected. Four, I think, were actual PLO members, three leaned toward the PLO, and 17 were not PLO-affiliated.

Now everyone says a new leadership should be nurtured. How does one do this? There are two possibilities—whether through the municipal avenue or through the political avenue—which is either to allow the formation of parties or to go to the Camp David self-governing authority plan; that is, hold elections throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

What's interesting about the recent disturbances in the West Bank, which everyone knows were not organized by the PLO, is that the residents of the territories have set down their own rules which contradict those of the PLO. The Palestinian Covenent says that terror is the strategy of the PLO. But they are not employing PLO-style terror and are not using hot weapons. Where did this idea of rocks and bottles and Molotov cocktails, which are also lethal, spring from? Who decided on it?

From this point of view, there is a difference between the PLO in the territories and the PLO abroad. This is what I said.

[Shalev] Do you view the disturbances in the territories as a declaration of independence by the residents, even though they continue to insist that 'Arafat is their representative?

[Peres] No matter what they say, they want 'Arafat to take orders from them, not vice-vica. It's a big difference. I see in it a re-evaluation of their own self-worth.

[Shalev] Have the events in the territories changed your perception of the problems of the Palestinians, or of their image?

[Peres] I have never been a Palestinian-hater. Like any people, they have their advantages and disadvantages. I don't see things stereotypically. But my conclusions don't start with the Arab side but with the Jewish side; not with what the Arabs are demanding, but with what is required for the Jews, so that we will remain Jews, and have a Jewish democratic state. Mine is not an office for granting licences for a nation to be a nation. This is pretentious. They decided that they are a Palestinian people—then they are a Palestinian people.

[Shalev] Do you share the concern that has been voiced about the effects of the disturbances on IDF soldiers, on the younger generation?

[Peres] Jewish history is devoid of any desire to rule over another people. I think that what is happening now is a deviation. All the people who ruled over us have been erased from the stage of history. We are the only ones who never ruled over anyone else, and we prevailed.

I don't think that when we renew the independent activity of our people, we should suddenly turn our backs on the moral logic of Jewish history.

I am not concerned about the effects on the soldiers. They will overcome, they are made of good material. The problem is what will be happen with us.

I told the religious Jews that they have become so enamoured with Joshua's patrimony that they have forgotten Mosaic Law.

[Shalev] You speak of a "deviation." You have accused Shamir of rejecting peace. But Shamir and the religious parties represent some 50 per cent of the people. So how can peace be achieved if half the people refuse to accept a policy which supports it?

[Peres] Look, in democratic states majorities are very slim, three or four per cent. Look at the election results in America. In England, Thatcher got less votes than her rivals. Look at France.

This problematic coalition which you are referring to is one of the leaderships of the parties, not of the religious Jews. I am convinced that there is a considerable moderate element among the religious Jews who once voted for the National Religious Party [NRP]. But, in the meantime, the NRP has become extreme.

I also believe that there are moderate elements among Likud voters as well. Their leadership has become more extreme. I am very doubtful whether a peace treaty would have been signed if the present leadership had ruled the Likud in 1977. Even former Prime Minister Menahem Begin supported an international conference then.

I view this coalition with concern because it is a marriage of convenience. The religious parties support the Likud because it is willing to give them everything they want.

What we see from the polls is that many Likud supporters—perhaps 30-40 per cent—are very dissatisfied, also from a religious point of view. The Likud is collaborating in a situation of near religious coercion. And I ask the religious politicans, do you want half of the people to be against you?

[Shalev] You mentioned England and France, but they are not contending with such momentous and vital issues as those presented by the territories.

[Peres] I remember the Zionist Congress in 1946 which I attended when Ben-Gurion [BG] thought that he was in the minority, a matter which was no less grave or crucial. In 1948, BG thought that he was in the minority in his party concerning the matter of the immediate establishment of the state.

[Shalev] If you achieve the desired majority in the next elections, do you think you can lead a move for peace? There is a Middle Eastern theory that only a stong man—the right one—can make peace.

[Peres] That's nonsense and has never been proven. It is said of Begin, but let's look at the facts. It was Al-Sadat who initiated the peace moves in 1977. Begin didn't have a majority—he was dependent on (then Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el) Yadin and (then Foreign Minister Moshe) Dayan. Camp David wasn't such an ideological issue, having dealt with Sinai and not with Judaea and Samaria. Begin would not have been able to prevail if we had not supported him.

On the other hand, all of the crucial decisions throughout the history of the state were reached without the Revisionists, without the right. The decision to set up a state on only a part of the land of Israel, the Rhodes agreements, the withdrawal from Sinai in 1957—all were reached without their agreement. Even Egypt, you must remember, would not have reached peace without the disengagement agreements which we concluded despite the objections of the right.

But if we have a majority of one per cent, it will immediately be one of 60-70 per cent, because some of the religious will join in.

I do not even rule out having the Likud join as a partner. I am interested in the substance, not in the make-up.

[Shalev] The Labour party has undergone quite a bit of upheaval recently. Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am resigned, a steering committee was set up, MK [Knesset Member] 'Abd al-Wahab left the party. Is Labour ready for the elections?

[Peres] Yes. I do not view these as serious problems. I am sorry about Darawshah. I think he made a mistake, even for himself. He has no political future. The Arab voter will be influenced by the events, not by personalities. We have a hard nucleus of Arab support and Arab intellectuals who understand that voting for (MK Muhammad) Mi'ari and for the Communists is like voting for Tehiya. Their positions are accepted by no one.

[Shalev] Do you rule out a coalition based on the quiet support of the Communists and the Progressive List For Peace?

[Peres] I don't need to make prophecies, there is no end to speculation.

[Shalev] How do you view Israel's relations with Southeast Asia, with Japan?

[Peres] Southeast Asia is the economic address of the future. The Japanese economy is currently in second place in the world, and projections that I have seen show that China will overtake Japan in 2000, 2010. The U.S. will be in first place, China second, Japan third and the Soviets fourth.

The events in the territories have slowed down the recent progress we've made with Japan. Economic events reflect political realities. We were already on the rise, and this has stopped.

We have to make a supreme effort to get there. Even the subsidiary markets of Korea, Taiwan and Singapore are a success story. And India will also recover soon, I believe.

Israel must do three things: turn all of its industry into science-based industries; give its citizens a higher education; and build an infrastucture of good realtions in Asia.

[Shalev] You had a well-publicized meeting with the Chinese foreign minister in October in New York. Has there been any movement since then?

[Peres] Bit by bit, there is always something. In China, short-term planning is aimed at the next hundred years.

[Shalev] What is the state of our relations with Turkey?

[Peres] We should improve our relations with Turkey, and we have taken some steps in this direction, especially in light of our political setbacks with Greece. But here, too, recent events have harmed these efforts.

[Shalev] Finally, a question on the Foreign Ministry itself. There is a lot of disgruntlement among senior officials who think that you feel that you don't need them like your predecessors did, that you do not need their advice.

[Peres] Perhaps they dealt more with diplomacy previously, and less with strategy. I do not view myself as the chief diplomat in Israel, but as one who is responsible for diplomacy. I am not a professional, but a statesman. And I have to devote all my energies to the home front.

Foreign policy begins at home. It's not a question of an ambassador persuading someone in Denmark to support the international conference. I have to go from place to place in Israel, to convince, to fight for something I believe in. I see my work as a mission, and I hope and expect that Foreign Ministry workers will join me. I didn't come to please, I came to lead.

Peres, Labor Support Timetable

TA111555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres says that the Labor Party agrees to accept the accelerated timetable included in the new U.S. plan. He says the three stages of the plan are indeed accelerated, but they are the only opportunity at present to get us out of the deadlock.

The three stages are: an international opening in April, an interim arrangement for three years on the basis of the autonomy plan, and a permanent arrangement on the basis of the Reagan plan of 6 years ago. The United States is also to give a guarantee to Jordan beforehand on the nature of the permanent arrangement.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay says that Mr Peres addressed the Labor Party Central Committee. He charged that the Likud's political platform foils any chances of opening negotiations with any Arab element. Minister Peres said the settlements in the territories are an ostentatious enterprise which add nothing to security. He believes that had the negotiations opened several months ago it may have been possible to prevent the disturbances in the territories.

Rabin on Political Solution

TA120854 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Feb 88 p 16

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by DAVAR editor-in-chief Hana Zemer, military correspondent Tali Zelinger, Hagay Eshed, Yoram Peri, Dani Rubinstein, 'Aliza Wallach, and A. Ben-'Ami; date and place not given: "I Have Not Changed My Views Since First Being Classified 'A Dove'"]

[Text] [DAVAR] We have been in the territories 20 years now. For 20 years the same kind of administration and roughly the same policy have been maintained there. Nearly everything is the same. What was it that triggered the recent events in early December, rather than in November or 12 months later?

[Rabin] I could not give you an explanation that would thoroughly convince me even now. I think the timing resulted from a combination of anniversaries: 40 years [of Israel's independence], 20 years [of Israel's rule over the territories], the past 2 and 1/2 years, the most recent months, or the fact that November was the month during which the summits were held. As to why the disturbances broke out on 9 December rather than 6 months later, I have no explanation. Nor do I think an explanation would be relevant because the events were unplanned and unforeseen by those who staged them. Consequently, they could not have been predicted by any of us, either. The fact that the riots were an explosion of sentiments, desires, aspirations, and expectations is beyond any dispute. But if you ask me why they erupted on that specific date—every one of us could provide his own explanation. You can ask me what exactly led to the outbreak of violence, but I would be unable to give you an answer that would satisfy me or one I could prove. I would say that the underlying cause was the feeling of frustration and despair.

[DAVAR] In the political context?

[Rabin] In the personal, economic, and political senses of the word. Undoubtedly, the main axis around which things currently revolve is political.

[DAVAR] As far as the political sphere is concerned, we know that some circumstances perhaps make it impossible for us to do much, but how about the personal and economic spheres?

[Rabin] It began in Gaza, in the attempt to resolve the refugee problem and find an answer to the inhabitants' distress. Israel is incapable of doing that. During my term as defense minister, we tried to use our resources to achieve that goal, but these proved insufficient.

We tried to enlist international help, too. For example, approximately 2 or 3 months prior to the beginning of events in Gaza, we raised $4.5 million for a large sewage system project in the Jabalyah camp through a UN development project. That was after those funds had already helped improve things for the Gaza fishermen by providing them with really modern equipment. Saudi Arabia donated $1 million of that $4.5 million through the UN body, having asked already a year before whether we would accept the money. I said: As far as I am concerned, let Saudi Arabia raise $20 million!

When Shultz first came here and talked about the quality of life, I suggested that perhaps the United States would undertake to help the refugee camps. Margaret Thatcher raised the Palestinian issue with me, and I told her: There are two problems involved, one political and the other human. Will Britain be prepared to work directly with a refugee camp, say by handling a hospital or a sector of the educational system? The issue was dropped and breakfast became a shorter affair.

There has not been a single foreign minister or parliamentarian who has visited Israel over the past 3 years to whom I have not made this offer: Please, be my guest! I looked around and found some estate of some obscure trust that required that all transactions go through it. I did not care, as long as the executors worked in coordination with the mayor of Bethlehem or with the chairman of the committee of some refugee camp. As soon as

I approached them with the suggestion, the conversation on the Palestinian issue ended. Everyone said: "Oh, that is very, very interesting. Let us look into it." And then—nothing! The political problem today is not as hot an issue as it was during the first decade immediately after the 6-Day War, when the refugees residing in the camps refused to cooperate because of outside Arab pressure.

[DAVAR] The Arabs in the territories have made a far more substantial contribution toward Israel's economy than the economy has to them. We do not allocate anything from our budget to them at all.

[Rabin] I cannot say we have solved the economic problems; far from it. Yet there is no doubt in my mind that there has always been relative improvement. Clearly this is not enough, since the most difficult problem is that of the refugee camps. Incidentally, I find that in what has taken place in the territories over the past 2 months, the central motif has been opposition to Israel on a political basis, regardless of whether the motivation was more complex. At the same time, I have also observed the first signs of a shakeup in the social structure—with the main axis in the Gaza Strip—involving the refugees and the permanent inhabitants, the haves and the have-nots. It should be borne in mind that the veteran leadership, whether pro-PLO or pro-Jordanian, consists exclusively of the wealthy families in the territories.

[DAVAR] You emphasized the political frustration, yet you favor a political solution to the problem. So what is the general direction?

[Rabin] Just as no one can provide an honest, sincere, and true explanation for why it all broke out on 9 December, so no one can provide an honest, sincere, and true explanation of why it ended on the 22d and was followed by a calmer period—and we saw what happened then. They, too, learned something. I think during that period they reached the conclusion that even if they did not plan it, for the first time since 15 May 1948, we witnessed a struggle waged by the Palestinian inhabitants of the former Mandate-Eretz Yisra'el. They can see that they are spearheading the confrontation with Israel.

For 40 years it was the Arab countries or terrorist elements that led the struggle against Israel, whereas now, through a head-on violent and rather extensive and extended confrontation, they are actually the vanguards of the fight against us. This is the political significance of what has happened. The question is, what will be the outcome of this fact on the political arena?

[DAVAR] Do all the assumptions that prevailed to date still hold?

[Rabin] I am convinced that to achieve peace along our eastern border, Jordan remains the chief partner. After all, it is impossible to make peace along our eastern border without Jordan, because the entire line separating our two countries and stretching from Elat all the way through the Dead Sea and Tirat Zevi to the Al-Yarmuk River, runs along Israel and Jordan.

The Gaza question has nothing to do with the Jordanian border, and is relevant only to the overall solution of the Palestinian problem. There is no doubt in my mind that without Jordan there cannot be peace along our eastern border. And I mean peace, not just a state of calm along the border.

Yet the serious question of the importance and significance of the Palestinian elements in the area in relation to the commands outside still exists. I believe the former have grown stronger. Whether they can now better represent the 1.4 million Palestinians who are currently at the helm of the struggle against us, rather than the Arab countries or the PLO commands, remains questionable. Who will be their representatives? Whom should they turn to? I think the answers have not yet become clear, and I also believe that not all those who appeared on behalf of the commands would be the future representatives, too.

Take, for example, the six manifestos issued by the commands. Was 'Arafat mentioned in name even once in even one of them? No. Why? Because the religious elements and the other bodies offset each other. I believe Hawatimah's DFLP and Habash's PFLP have played a role that may have possibly been more crucial than that of the the Fatah activists. In naming the collaborators from the Jibril camp, several names of PLO-'Arafat activists crept in. They were mentioned as collaborators with Israel. That the pro-Jordanian activists were also mentioned goes without saying.

The internal struggle is being waged over many other things as well, although they are all united in their opposition to us. For example, the extremist Islamic element objects to any kind of political solution, whether through the PLO or otherwise. The pro-Syrian elements generally oppose the PLO-'Arafat line insofar as its handling of the political problem is concerned. At this point there is no unity over anything constructive. The issue of Palestinian representation is still in very embryonic stages.

[DAVAR] But they will be elected.

[Rabin] As mayors? This is unrealistic. On the other hand, if, within the framework of the U.S. initiative, we reach an agreement with the Jordanians and the Palestinians on the interim period, I will support elections for a body that would be in charge of an administration of self-rule. But this is different from municipal elections, where the mayors are divorced from the political process. In the context of an agreement on an interim period and on the question of who, on behalf of the Palestinians, will run the self-rule administration in accordance

with the terms clearly stipulated, I will support elections in the territories for that body, because this would already be part of the political process.

[DAVAR] What role is designated for Jordan in this process? After all, it has been excluded from the game in the West Bank.

[Rabin] I still do not know what kind of agreement we will have. But let us leave the beginning of the process aside for the moment. Right now, the Americans are using the phrase "international event" in lieu of "conference." If we are talking about the U.S. initiative, I am in favor of encouraging the United States to pursue initial contacts to bring about an agreement between Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and to do the maximum to find Palestinians who will also join it.

What is the initiative talking about? Negotiations that should end after 6 months, or stretch, say, between April and October, to determine an interim period. The fact that there must be some entity to run things during this interim period is acknowledged. I believe that body should be Palestinian and that it should be run through coordination between Israel and Jordan. The next stage in the U.S. initiative calls for negotiations on the permanent solution to be launched in December.

Without going into detail right now, at the moment this offers basically the only chance for embarking on a political process, if this is at all possible. This time, the timetable was shortened compared to the Camp David Accords, and I am all for it. If we discover that this is the only chance for a move, and if the problem should boil down to only the timetable, I think we should make an effort to reach an agreement on the move, otherwise there will be no political process. Without U.S. prodding, there will be no political process.

[DAVAR] When you talk about an effort, do you mean one within the Cabinet or an international effort?

[Rabin] I am not so sure there is a consensus among all the international elements, Jordan, and Egypt. They want Syria at least to refrain from interfering, if not to participate in the process. I think the PLO will be extremely distressed by such a process, and I am not sure that the pro-Syrian and 'Arafat PLO will not object to this process, either.

[DAVAR] Perhaps Jordan is cool to the process because it fears the outcome of the elections?

[Rabin] I believe that in the present situation it would be wrong to totally ignore the Palestinians of the territories. That is why it is necessary to examine the possibilities for negotiations to be run simultaneously with the attainment of peace with Jordan, and to find out what the chances are of embarking on a phased process involving an interim period and efforts on our part to enter into a dialogue with some Palestinian elements—if they can be found—who would be prepared to talk to us.

I am not ruling out any of these options. The process currently being examined, thanks to the U.S. initiative, is the process that involves a shortening of the time frame set in the Camp David Accords. Nevertheless, in principle we are talking about an interim period that is not called autonomy, one that is not based on Camp David, but one that involves some sort of opening by way of an international event. That is what we have today, and I support it. All the rest is nothing but hypotheses.

[DAVAR] Based on the logic that says that this time the uprising or the awakening is a process staged or managed by local Palestinians, does the emerging plan allow you actually to envision the establishment of a Palestinian state from the "balcony"? [allusion to the famous picture showing Theodore Herzl looking at the old city of Jerusalem from a hotel balcony]

[Rabin] Not at all. And for the record, let me say this: I object to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan.

[DAVAR] But nothing can happen without it.

[Rabin] I think otherwise.

[DAVAR] Have you had any doubts regarding this statement? In other words, have you ever stopped to think for a moment that although you have embraced this view for 20 years, it now might warrant some revision?

[Rabin] I reviewed my thoughts on this one more time and reached the same conclusion: A PLO-Palestinian state—and a Palestinian state will be a PLO state—could be even more radical than the PLO is today, namely because of the religious fundamentalism factor.

[DAVAR] So what will we have?

[Rabin] I believe that even today no solution to the Palestinian problem can be found without including Jordan.

[DAVAR] But why should Jordan want this? Jordanian sympathizers will not, after all, be elected in the territories.

[Rabin] Maybe, maybe not. We accepted this at Camp David, and I am therefore committed to it. If once an agreement is reached with Jordan the whole thing breaks down over elections, we will reconsider the matter.

[DAVAR] From the point of view of the Labor Party, which favors an Israeli-Jordanian solution, is the election component a handicap?

[Rabin] I support any beginning of a dialogue within the framework of a political process whose aim is to attain peace along our eastern border—whether this is reached through a phased process or in one move. At present, only the United States may be capable of pushing the process forward, and even that is debatable. Therefore, the question is whether we welcome the initiative, examine its different components, and try to improve it through a dialogue; or whether we say: "No, we do not like it, because we want something else."

[DAVAR] Apart from the problem of shortening the time frame, there is also the problem of the nature of autonomy during the interim period.

[Rabin] This is something that should be worked out in negotiations. Do you want to determine the nature of the negotiations even before they start?

[DAVAR] Ten years have already passed since Camp David, and the interim period should have ended 5 years ago. During the past decade, all sorts of things happened that affected the existing state of affairs. During your term as prime minister, the Cabinet debated a proposal known as the Yariv-Shemtov formula. Is there no room for an Israeli initiative along similar lines now? Say an Israeli initiative similar to that proposal without negotiations with the PLO?

[Rabin] Supposing we do come out with such a proposal. Would this launch a political process? Will it lead to peace with Jordan? No way! Besides, I object to the establishment of an independent PLO-Palestinian state.

[DAVAR] But Husayn and 'Arafat have reached an agreement favoring the formula of land in return for peace. Are you not making the mistake of underestimating Husayn's desire to maintain negotiations with Israel with PLO participation?

[Rabin] As far as this is concerned, I worry more about the Israelis—including some sitting with us here—than I do about Jordan. When it comes to Jordan and its attitude toward the PLO, I feel a lot safer.

[DAVAR] Were you to notice a reasonable chance that the United States could further a political process with which you could feel comfortable with, would you support quitting the Cabinet if your partners refuse to accept the U.S. initiative?

[Rabin] I would suggest that we abstain from deciding now what I would be in favor of at some point in the future. Why should I commit myself now, when I am still not sure if my other partners will accept it? I would not like to address this question before I have a clear idea of where exactly the obstacle lies preventing any movement forward.

[DAVAR] If it turns out that Egypt and Jordan oppose autonomy and want to move on to phase two, will the Labor Party agree?

[Rabin] I will support the beginning of a dialogue. I believe the goal is to reach negotiations. If this is on the basis of a serious and relevant discussion on peace between the parties concerned, I will support it. If they say it is necessary to proceed to an interim period—even a shortened process compared to Camp David—this to me constitutes a chance to begin a dialogue. I do not know why the Americans have suggested this. Perhaps because they are taking the Palestinian element in the territories into consideration as well. I am not so sure I really know what the Americans think. But if it leads to a dialogue, I am all for it.

[DAVAR] In retrospect, and to draw conclusions for the future, would it be wrong to call it a serious debacle that no debate was ever held on the possibility that such an uprising might evolve?

[Rabin] There have been all sorts of views and opinions on the matter, including on the eventuality that we might witness an eruption—either in the form of terrorism or in some other violent manifestation. There was no indication because no one planned things that way. The possibility was foreseen in theory, but we could not have known in advance when it would materialize.

[DAVAR] Have any new organizational conclusions been drawn with respect to intelligence activity in the territories? Has a new body been established or additional duties given to an existing body?

[Rabin] I would feel very uncomfortable answering this. I think the various bodies have adjusted themselves and adapted their operations to the new circumstances. The current military mission is to establish calm. In view of what has happened, the overriding principle guiding our activity is the simple assumption that a solution reached solely by military means is unrealistic. The solution will be reached by political means. As the defense establishment, we are entrusted with the job of bringing about peace and quiet through the use of force so as to abort any delusion that violence can bring us to our knees. We must overcome violence despite the difficulties and the uneasy feelings involved in this type of confrontation which, compared to wars and terrorism, has nevertheless resulted in far fewer casualties on our side.

[DAVAR] Do you think this mission has had a detrimental effect on the IDF?

[Rabin] I am sure the IDF would be better off training, but the true test for every army is in the way it executes its mission. It is our mission to deter our enemies from engaging in war, win the war if it should be forced upon us, and combat terrorism. The prevention of violence among the population in the territories is also a mission—a means of attaining political goals. I do not think

I could be accused of revealing secrets if I tell you that the IDF has been training for the military mission of combating an external enemy and fighting against terrorism, but has devoted much less time to conducting routine security missions in the territories. I am not saying that we lacked the experience, but we never faced this type of problem on such a scale and in such intensity with no letup. The IDF was not prepared for this. This was a mistake and I am responsible for it. Because they lacked sufficient experience, the soldiers found themselves in a position where they were too hasty to use their firearms. Yet I have noticed that whenever Arabs are hurt by our forces it worries the local and international media far less than when the Arabs are beaten up. To me this spells a lopsided moral stance and topsy-turvy values.

[DAVAR] The question is, what damage has this brought upon the soldiers' value judgment and morals?

[Rabin] I do not think the missions the army currently undertakes wreak more havoc than the damage caused by war. I know of no war in which the soldiers suffered no emotional scars. Every type of violent activity has its own problems. You say that most soldiers would prefer to shoot—so what? Should we, as a result, adopt this method? We must choose the best method from our standpoint, both in terms of values and from the viewpoint of its effectiveness.

[DAVAR] How scrupulous are you in investigating any conspicuous behavior?

[Rabin] There have been exceptions. Some soldiers have been detained. Some company commanders have been suspended. I do not believe everything should be made public knowledge. If people do not believe this, let them go on not believing.

[DAVAR] There have been rumors and confirmed reports of spontaneous activity by settlers, such as in 'Anabta and Hebron. Why were the people involved not detained?

[Rabin] In the latter cases, the police are conducting an investigation. The Israeli residents of the territories must abide by the law. That is why the police are handling the matter, and we insist that the individuals be treated as warranted.

[DAVAR] But the police in the territories are subordinate to the Defense Ministry.

[Rabin] That is true, but they exercise their own means and follow their own rules. I believe that the heads of the regional councils are aware of the damage the individuals are causing, or so at least they have told me as much. There is no doubt in my mind that just as we all have realized that this is harmful, so have they. In 95 percent of the cases in which the Arab agitators shouted "the settlers are coming," they simply wanted to use this as a means of manipulation. We will do our utmost to make sure that one thing is honored—that law and order are maintained by the army and the police alone.

[DAVAR] Do you have the tools to discharge disciplinary measures?

[Rabin] We are currently dealing with charges against the chairman of the Qatif district council, who is suspected of having killed a girl in a schoolyard; with the death in Qaddum; and with other cases.

[DAVAR] Can we ask you something personal? Everyone says that the old Yitzhaq Rabin who delivered the address on Mt Scopus [after the 6-Day War], the same Yitzhaq Rabin who was prepared to use a passport to reach Gush 'Ezyon, is dead, and that those leanings in him that could be termed "dovish" have disappeared. They argue that you have become a "hawk."

[Rabin] Ever since I retired from the IDF in 1968 I have supported the Allon plan. You should bear in mind that during the first 10 years after the 6-Day War, the Labor Party was split, with some favoring the territorial compromise conceived in Yig'al Allon's shop versus the Moshe Dayan school of supporters of a functional compromise favoring neither annexation nor a foreign sovereign entity west of the Jordan River.

At that time, I was considered a "dove." Politically, I still adhere to the same views. Yet I am convinced that if we fail to find the strength or means to demonstrate to the inhabitants of the territories that violence will not make us withdraw or give up the fundamentals of our policy, we will end up somewhere other than along the Green Line. Nonetheless, this does not imply anything that conflicts with things I thought or said previously. Capitulation as a result of war with an Arab country or terrorism or violence in the territories along the lines of what we have seen these past 2 months would be disastrous for the state of Israel.

Ben-Aharon on Fixed Timetable

TA111231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and program moderator Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good afternoon, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office.

[Ben-Aharon] Good afternoon.

[Gay] Good afternoon to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, too.

[Ben-'Ami] Good afternoon.

[Gay] First, Mr Ben-Aharon, what is the meaning of substantive phases?

[Ben-Aharon] We simply want to clarify the fundamental difference between ideas focusing on a fixed timetable, which ignore content and talk only about time frames, and activity which revolves around substantive phases, not target dates, which is what we prefer.

[Gay] But perhaps what you call these procedural stages, or the fixed timetable, will compel the two sides to march ahead, time wise, also as far as substantive matters are concerned?

[Ben-Aharon] We have no problem with the timetable, but we do not want this to become the ultimate goal, just as we did not want the international conference to become the alpha and omega. After all, this entire business stems from a U.S. attempt to downplay the issue of the international conference and nudge it over to the sidelines. The Americans realized that everyone, particularly the Arab countries and the Soviets, had become mesmerized by the conference, believing that it would set everything straight and grant them peace and final salvation. The Americans realized that this cannot and will not happen. That is why they changed their views and began using the term international event instead of international conference. But let us leave this aside, as labels are really not important.

The Americans are trying to sound us out on a scenario involving the timetable for the transition from an interim period to negotiations over the permanent status, down to the actual implementation of all this. We wanted to make it clear, via Murphy—and we will also say as much when the prime minister visits United States—that the focus of attention should not shift to severe one-sided timetables based on calendar dates—namely, timetables that stretch from the beginning to the end of the year, when the incumbent administration ends its tenure. We are saying that we must concentrate on content and set up a plan based on phases that will determine precisely what should be done at each stage, with each stage constituting a test case and with the success of each phase forming the basis for the next phase and determining its chance for success.

[Ben-'Ami] I take it, Mr Ben-Aharon, that beyond the issue of the international conference, the problem or difficulty facing the prime minister has to do with the transition from the implementation of the interim arrangement to the beginning of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, which in American jargon is known as interlocking [last word in English].

[Ben-Aharon] That is correct.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to understand what in the substance of the interim arrangement would constitute the test case that would determine its success, thereby clearing the way for progression to a discussion on the permanent arrangement?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, the weak point in the U.S. idea stems from its desire to set a clear date for negotiations on the permanent status right at the outset of the process. If we accept this, all the moves leading up to that stage will be devoid of content, at least from the point of view of those who are interested in the permanent status—in this case, Jordan, in particular. This way there will be no point in going through all the stages, because they will only be impatiently awaiting this later stage.

[Ben-'Ami] Why is that, do you believe that...

[Ben-Aharon, interrupting] The answer to your question is that the prime minister says that the developments during the interim period—during those stages in which we will nurture self-rule and autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—will have a crucial impact on the circumstances, as well as the substance and content of the negotiations on the permanent status.

[Ben-'Ami] In that case, do I understand correctly that what the prime minister wants to clarify is that the interim arrangement phase, or what was previously known as autonomy and may now perhaps be called self-rule, must be lengthy—in other words, years rather than months, as the U.S. is proposing?

[Ben-Aharon] Once again, let me repeat: There is no point tying everything to a fixed timetable. The Camp David Accords mentioned a 3-year period. Several bodies are allergic to the Camp David agreements. We never said we were married to one definition or another. The problem is one of substance.

Try to imagine—in view of what is currently happening in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—turning the situation overnight into a backdrop for discussions on the permanent status. This is simply unrealistic. Therefore, we must move on as fast as possible to a state of affairs in which there is coexistence. There is a leadership ready to cooperate with us, and there is readiness on the part of Jordan—that leadership—and Israel to discuss the permanent status. As to how long this would take, the basis would be that laid down in the Camp David Accords, perhaps longer. I cannot tell. All this should be a matter for negotiating in a process that would be launched only after the trial period has proved itself successful.

[Ben-'Ami] This compels me to return to Karmit's first question: Does the framework provided by the United States—the fixed timetable—not compel all the parties involved, under each side's discrete circumstances, to enter into some sort of process? Will this not force them to engage in some kind of process?

[Ben-Aharon] But the commitment already exists! Look, King Husayn has always accused the prime minister of Israel of declining to discuss the future of the territories. He put things in the prime minister's mouth which he never said, because the prime minister is pledged, according to the Camp David Accords, to discuss the permanent status in the 3d year of the autonomy. This, then, is a false accusation contrived to put Husayn in the clear and enable him to demand a decision on the permanent status at the outset of the process.

[Gay] The question is: What must take place between now and 3 years from now to make such discussions possible at that juncture? In other words, if that is the case, why insist on a longer period of time?

[Ben-Aharon] Very simply, because we need to create the circumstances that would make negotiations on the permanent status possible. After all, we are not prepared to hand over control of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to a foreign element overnight. No one will accept such a thing, except for those who want to ignore reality and put the state of Israel in tremendous jeopardy. And anyway, they are fringe elements who unfortunately exist in Israel, too. We would like the conditions, as I explained to them, to emerge—namely, that both the local population and those who will represent it to enter into a move that stands some chance, that offers some hope of coexistence and readiness to discuss the permanent status after the trial period.

[Gay] But if you say that right now no one will be prepared to discuss interim arrangements because one can already hear talk about permanent arrangements in the distance, the same could also happen if you talk about a period of 2 or 3 years?

[Ben-Aharon] No. This will only happen if a very imminent date is fixed in advance and that date is set for the discussion on the permanent status. That is why this is out of the question. But if the various stages are linked, in terms of one being conditional upon the next, with the success of each one also determining the date and chances for moving on to the next, this will be substantive and will guarantee the success of each stage.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, allow me to ask you one final question on the substance. Does the proposal or idea the prime minister will bring to Washington mention, in the context of the proposed interim arrangement, the withdrawal of the IDF from Arab population centers inside the territory that will enjoy self-rule?

[Ben-Aharon] Most certainly. There are many components, and one must take notice of all of them. Incidentally, in our discussion here we ignored one fundamental component, and that is the status and the condition of the refugees. This, too, should be part of the issue. After all, we cannot build an edifice of peace as long as the serious problem of the refugees, who need to be given a permanent place to live, still exists. This is one element. Another element is: How should we deal with both the functional and the territorial aspects of these stages? Perhaps it will be possible to take a certain place as a test case and watch for the emergence of a local leadership that shows readiness to negotiate and assume leadership over local affairs. If such a thing came to be, we could then expand its terms of reference and allow it greater control over local affairs, at which point the IDF or any of our security forces would leave that area or the city in question. All this should therefore constitute part of a phased framework which the parties have mutually—not unilaterally—agreed upon, thereby guaranteeing a large degree of success.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office; and thank you, also, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Sharon on Restoring Security

TA111810 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Ari'el Sharon, industry and trade minister by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The first guest on our program is Minister Ari'el Sharon. Good morning to you.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Friedman] On the face of it, a Likud man would have been expected to firmly reject the new U.S. formula for political negotiations starting with an international event and ending with talks on a permanent settlement. This formula is apparently based on the Reagan plan of 1982. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, however, notwithstanding his reservations about the content of the U.S. initiative, has welcomed it and even said he is glad about its very existence. Do you discern any signs of ideological softening on Shamir's part?

[Sharon] No, I do not discern any signs of softening. The political solution lies in the autonomy plan which states in plain words that the local population would be able to conduct its affairs as independently as possible, while Israel would forever continue to be responsible for security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister, of course, stressed Israel's commitment to the peace process based on the Camp David Accords.

The length of the process is particularly important. The autonomy plan is based on the gradual building of mutual trust, meaning that the process would be pursued as security increased. Therefore, it would be dangerous to shorten the transitional period before the permanent settlement. One should also bear in mind that the United States must abide by the Camp David Accords it signed. It is inconceivable that the United States should sign an agreement with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President al-Sadat in 1978, and should ask us to sign a

different agreement in 1988. If so, what are signed agreements worth? This is a matter of principle, and one should insist on one's principles.

[Friedman] What the U.S. term an international event, and Shim'on Peres called in the past an international opening, does not seem very threatening since it would really be a one-time ceremonial occasion in which the negotiations would open. It seems that after the opening there would be no outside interference whatsoever in the direct negotiations between the incumbent parties. Can you stomach such a one-time international event?

[Sharon] I think the order of priorities should be altered. I would like to emphasize that in my opinion the most important factor at the moment which would enable negotiations without pressure is the restoration of security, tranquility, and order to Jerusalem, Wadi 'Ara, Haifa, Yafo, Gaza, Nabulus, Gush 'Ezyon, and the Gilbo'a Mountains. Restoring security and tranquility on both sides of what was once called the Green Line is more important and urgent than any negotiations. Political negotiations based on this or that plan, concept, or opening are worthless if there is no security here. At the moment, I would say this is the first and most important thing that should be done. [Friedman] In other words, you are actually saying that there will be no negotiations until peace is restored in the territories?

[Sharon] There is no connection between the two. First and foremost, we must see to it that there is quiet and security. I also want to say that solutions to the current situation exist. I myself experienced a far worse situation in the Gaza Strip and we found the solutions.

Today too, there are solutions. I hear people say that no two situations are the same, and I can tell them that they did not know the situation then, and they certainly do not understand the situation now. In the last 2 months and over the last 3 years I have made several proposals which, to my regret, have been rejected. Had these proposals been accepted I am convinced we would be in a different situation and we would look different.

Let me repeat: what is now happening in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and, to our regret, also in areas ruled by Israel before 1967, is the result of PLO activity. The terrorist PLO detects every weakness. To my regret, what we do today is display weakness in all aspects of life. That is why we should first and foremost recruit the best brains and troops to deal with the situation. Let me say it once again: There are solutions to the new situation.

[Friedman] A related story is that of the boat of Palestinian deportees that did not sail yesterday and which may not sail at all. Would you say that this move was thwarted by a successful Israeli preemptive action?

[Sharon] The boat has not sailed yet and this is first and foremost the result of a resolute government decision to take action to prevent the boat from sailing. Of course, Israel used ways that did not involve any physical damage. The Israeli Government made a decision and we hear that it has indeed worked. Once again, this shows us that the solution to problems calls for unity at home, and all of us Jews were united on this issue. We should always remember that unity among us Jews will help us face up to dangers. Together we will find solutions to all the problems afflicting us.

[Friedman] What you say is that even without the four-man committee, which at one time you wanted to establish, mutually-agreed solutions can be found if there is unity at home.

[Sharon] I think that if that committee had been set up, a committee that was not designed to replace the police affairs or the defense ministers who are both making great efforts to restore order and security, we would have solved another series of problems which led to the current situation in Judaea, Samaria, Jerusalem, and other places. We would have solved problems which actually hinder the promotion of a political process. One must understand that a political process is also a psychological matter; a question of the way people feel, of self-confidence. Those who think a political process can be pursued in the present situation have apparently not yet realized the situation we are living in.

[Friedman] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

3 'Terrorist' Infiltrators Seized in Negev 5 Feb

TA111413 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Three terrorists were caught last Friday trying to infiltrate from the Egyptian border in the area of Har Harif in the west Negev. The terrorists are members of the Fatah organization, and they intended to carry out an attack. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the three reached Egypt from Jordan and Algeria and had been aided by local inhabitants in the Sinai. The squad was in possession of weapons, 3 submachineguns, explosives, and grenades.

Mordekhay on 'Terrorist' Aims

TA111542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, said that the three terrorists apparently intended to seize hostages, or to hijack a bus and drive in it to one of the settlements in order to carry out a mass attack there. Maj Gen Mordekhay noted that the Egyptians apparently did not know about the squad, but he added that the three received aid in Cairo.

'Serious Disturbances' Reported in Territories

2 Killed in Nabulus Riots

TA121512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Two rioters were killed and five wounded by IDF soldiers' fire this afternoon. The dead rioters are 14 and 17 year old youths. Defense Establishment sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that at the end of prayers at the Al-Nasir Mosque in the old city of Nabulus, hundreds of residents rioted, hurling stones and Molotov cocktails at the soldiers. Two soldiers were slightly wounded.

The soldiers first fired rubber bullets and tear gas grenades, but when their lives were in endangered they fired at the rioters' feet. The dead rioters were brought to the Nabulus hospital but their relatives snatched the bodies, and one of the dead youths has already been buried.

Three dead rioters had been reported earlier, but it transpired that one of the dead was originally recorded in one hospital and later his body was transferred to another hospital where he was again recorded as dead.

Riots Within Green Line

TA111435 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Serious disturbances have taken place in the village of Al-Taiyiba, in the triangle, since this morning. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller reports that windshields of vehicles were shattered, a tractor driver was stoned, two workers of the Osem company were beaten up, and a truck was set on fire in a wadi near the village. Masked people threatened high school students on their way to school and smashed school windows and windows of teachers' cars. The police alerted large forces to the disturbances in the village. Calm was restored and 10 people were detained.

An initial investigation has indicated that criminal elements are inciting tempers, but it is not clear whether there is a nationalistic background.

The secretariat of the National Committee of the Heads of the Arab Local Councils convened in Al-Taiyiba today. The committee sharply denounced the events that took place in the village. In a statement issued by the committee it said that these were disturbances for their own sake. The committee called on the Israeli Arabs to content themselves with a role of support while avoiding acts of violence, because this will not help the Arab people. The heads of the Arab councils also say that Israeli Arabs should accept the role of serving as a bridge to peace and not allow anyone to disrupt their mission.

Islamic Jihad Youths Detained

TA111505 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Text] Last week the IDF detained dozens of youths from the Islamic Jihad organization in the villages of Silat al-Harithiya and Ya'bad in the Janin district.

The IDF soldiers raided these villages after local inhabitants were terrorized by extremist elements who prevented them from going to work, burned a bus that came to pick up workers, and attacked Jewish traffic in the area. Students from the Jewish settlements in the Janin district pass near the village of Ya'bad daily, and they often encountered road blocks.

The military commander of the Janin sector said yesterday: "The mosque in the village of Silat al-Harithiya told the villagers: 'The IDF will not succeed in entering our village. [no end quotation mark as published] A rumor spread in the village of Ya'bad that settlers threw a grenade and damaged the water station. Our examination has shown that there was a short circuit in this place.

The soldiers entered the two villages to detain the instigators and clashed fiercely with them, chasing them from house to house and while attacking them with Molotov cocktails. In addition to the dozens of suspects detained during the raid, ('Ani Jirjat), who is considered to be the main leader of the disturbances in the area, has also been detained.

Rioters Arrested Near Tulkarm

TA121024 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] During the night, IDF troops arrested rioters and agitators in the village of Dayr al-Ghusun near Tulkarm. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that the arrests were conducted in cooperation with the village dignitaries and no resistance was encountered. The arrests came after local inhabitants blocked access routes to the village and prevented workers from leaving for work.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 12 February on page one, notes: "The security forces and the IDF have recently begun conducting planned operations in which dozens of Arab villages in Judaea and Samaria are raided and agitators are detained. Dozens of agitators have been detained so far, and many more detentions are expected. According to this new policy, IDF troops will raid villages whose residents interfere with the flow of traffic and encourage acts of provocation along the main roads and against Israeli vehicles. After over 2 months of riots, the IDF decided to take the initiative, instead of merely forcing open stores and dispersing demonstrations, as has been the custom until now."]

Druze Arrested For Strike Call

TA120953 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Four residents of the Golan Heights village of Majdal Shams were arrested this morning on suspicion of having distributed leaflets calling on the villagers to strike and demonstrate in solidarity with the residents of the territories. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that the Druze villages on the Golan Heights have collected cash donations and large quantities of food for the residents of the territories.

Jordanian Suppression Revealed

TA111838 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from reliable Palestinian sources that the Jordanian authorities have carried out stringent security measures to prevent any protest demonstration against Israeli practices in the occupied territories, or any solidarity acts with the Palestinians, whether through gatherings or by other means. A large demonstration by the residents of Al-Buq'ah and Al-Husayn refugee camps was suppressed and many residents were arrested. Female pupils from the Al-Buq'ah refugee camp who held a protest demonstration were also detained.

In addition to other arbitrary practices, check points have been set up at all the refugee camps to prevent the entry of newsmen and to register the names of visitors.

IDF Charged With 'Uncontrolled' Violence

TA120607 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] A fact-finding team of American physicians who saw beating and gunshot victims in hospitals in the territories said yesterday they had found medical evidence of "an uncontrolled epidemic of violence by the army and police in the West Bank and Gaza, on a scale and degree of severity that may not be clear to the public."

A member of the team said "the sheer numbers (of wounded) that we have estimated, indicates that the rate and scope of beating and other forms of violence cannot be considered deviations or aberrations, and they come closer to being the norm."

Hospitals in the territories are "overwhelmed" with the stream of casualties and their condition is "worse than in the TV series MASH," said the leader of the team, Dr. Jack Geiger, chairman of the department of community medicine at the City University of New York, and an expert on problems of health and poverty.

"If this were a war, many of the actions whose results we have seen would be declared atrocities," said another delegation member, Dr. Leon Shapiro, a psychiatrist at the Massachusetts Mental Health Centre and a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School. The declared policy on use of force was apparently not being followed in the field, he said.

The IDF spokeswoman said in response that there had been violent riots in the territories over the past two months, and that troops were authorized to use "reasonable force" to quell them and subdue persons resisting arrest. She said any complaints of excesses by troops would be investigated. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i BBC Interview Discusses Conference

JN112105 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i said in a BBC interview last night that any peace talks on the Middle East should take place within the framework of an international conference.

In the television program "Newsnight," Mr al-Rifa'i stressed that Jordan will not accept the concept of a one-time international meeting.

[Begin recording] [Al-Rifa'i] We insist on an international conference. Not a meeting, but a fully fledged conference to be invited for by the secretary general of the United Nations, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, as well as all the involved parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO.

[Unidentified correspondent] We understand from Israel tonight that the prime minister there, Mr Shamir, sees this international meeting as a once-for-all international event, as he puts it. It would take place in April and would be followed by something quite different. There would be no international conference to continue after that. It would simply be direct talks between you and the Israelis about autonomy followed by a permanent settlement. Would that in any way be acceptable to you?

[Al-Rifa'i] No, none whatsoever. We insist on having an international conference with an ongoing role. We are not talking about one-time international meeting.

[Correspondent] Do you welcome the fact that the plan apparently proposes that talks about a final settlement will automatically follow the talks about autonomy, regardless of how those autonomy talks go? Is not that a step forward?

[Al-Rifa'i] As far as that is concerned, it is a step forward, but the negotiations will only take place in an international conference with an ongoing role. There will be not a result of a one-time international meeting. And, therefore, one cannot say whether it is a step forward or backward unless one looks at the whole package.

[Correspondent] You see, Mr Shamir apparently believes that there is a danger if those talks about a final solution start too early, that they may wet chances of getting agreement on the transitional arrangements for autonomy in the occupied territories.

[Al-Rifa'i] The main purpose of any settlement would be the final status of the occupied territories—meaning Israeli withdrawal. Interim arrangements, or autonomy, or what have you are only steps on the way. What counts is the final ultimate settlement, and that entails Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[Correspondent] It would appear there is quite a gap between you and the Israelis on this, and therefore not perhaps much prospect of a quick agreement on the process of getting these negotiations going?

[Al-Rifa'i] Our position has been made clear. It remains the same, and we will just have to wait and see what the United States Administration presents to us, and we will respond accordingly and on the basis of the position that I have just outlined.

[Correspondent] Now (Ehud Elmod) from Jerusalem tells us it is your intransigence that is holding up the peace process?

[Al-Rifa'i] I believe if there is an intransigent position it is that of Israel. We would like to hear the position of the Israeli Government on very simple questions: Is Israel willing to withdraw from the occupied territories? Is it willing to relinquish its occupation of the Palestinian people? Is it willing to allow the Palestinians to exercise their legitimate political rights? This is the Israeli intransigent position that has complicated and even prevented any possibility of arriving at a peaceful position up till now.

[Correspondent] Do you get a feel for the prospect here of a real chance of a breakthrough? Do you get a sense that we are now in a situation in which it just could come?

[Al-Rifa'i] No, all we know so far is that we were quite satisfied that the United States has decided to become actively involved in the search for peace once again after almost a year of absence. And we certainly hope that this new initiative will come to fruition. Obviously it is not only the United States that we have to consider. We hope that there will be consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union and the other permanent members of the Security Council as well as the secretary general of the United Nations, as well as consultations with the Arab parties to the conflict.

The result of all those contacts will determine where we go next. [end recording]

U.S.-USSR Consultations on 'Plan' Urged

JN111628 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Feb

[Text] Jordan has asked the United States to hold consultations, especially with the Soviet Union, before putting forward the final form of the new U.S. plan for a settlement. Political sources in Amman believe the U.S. proposals are ambiguous and do not constitute an integrated scenario for a solution.

The political sources in Amman expressed the hope that Washington will consult on this matter with Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in addition to the Soviet Union.

Coverage of King Husayn's European Tour

For reportage of King Husayn's European tour, including visits to Italy, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Austria, please refer to the appropriate country sections beginning with the Italy & Vatican City section of the 1 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Egypt's Wali Arrives for Official Visit

JN111434 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—Dr Yusuf Wali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, arrived in Amman this morning on an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. Dr Wali said that his visit to Jordan is aimed at coordinating and preparing for a scientific conference, which will be held either in Amman or Cairo in the near future. He added that His Highness Prince Hasan has played an important role in the consolidation of bilateral scientific cooperation and the establishment of a solid basis for bilateral coordination in this field, in the service of the two countries' objectives and the two fraternal peoples' interests.

Dr Wali said that the periodic meetings of the higher joint committee, cochaired by the countries' prime ministers, have laid down bases for joint action in the political and economic fields. He said that the meetings resulted in many bilateral agreements, which have specified ways of cooperation and development, setting an example that should be followed in Arab relations.

Army Commander Receives Soviet General

JN101540 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1448 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Amman, 10 Feb (PETRA)—Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today received General Mikhalkin, commander of the Rocket and Artillery Forces of the Soviet Ground Forces, who is currently visiting Jordan. The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff of the Army, and the members of the accompanying guest delegation.

Gen Mikhalkin and his accompanying military delegation arrived in Amman at noon yesterday on a visit to Jordan that will last several days. The guest delegation will visit a number of military units and cultural sites in Jordan.

Islamic Jihad To Issue 'Decision' on 4 Hostages

NC111955 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon 1948 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization issued a statement this evening in which it declares that it will make a stunning [sa'iqan] decision with regard to the four hostages it has been holding since January of last year.

'Revenge' Threatened

NC112239 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2220 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine has threatened to take revenge against the four U.S. [as heard] professors who are being held captive. At the same time it has called for staging demonstrations in protest of Israel's policy in the occupied territories.

The threat came in a hand-written statement delivered to AFP and the newspaper AL-NAHAR, along with a color photo of hostage Alann Steen. The four professors, who have been held captive since January of last year, are Americans Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, and Jesse Turner, and the Indian Mithileshwar Singh.

Two Swedes Kidnapped by 'Mistake,' Released

NC111709 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1651 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] News agencies reported a short while ago that two Swedish journalists had been kidnapped along the airport road [in West Beirut]. Unidentified gunmen stopped the taxi in which the two Swedes were riding, forced the taxi driver out, and snatched them. Sources in West Beirut confirmed the report, noting that the kidnapping took place near Al-'Uwayni Palace.

A Swedish diplomatic source in Beirut told AFP a short while ago that the two kidnapped Swedes were set free after the kidnappers had ascertained that they were not German. The sources added that the kidnappers had been after German nationals, and that the two Swedes were taken by mistake.

Further on Mistaken Kidnapping

LD111758 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] We now go over to Beirut and our Middle East correspondent, Agneta Ramberg. We have heard that two employees of the news program "Report" were abducted by armed men today. What do you know about what happened, Agneta?

[Ramberg] I have just spoken with Folke Ryden and the photographer Andre Lada, who were abducted and then released, and who are now at their hotel. What happened was that they had arrived here by plane in the afternoon. They were traveling along the airport road in a taxi on the way toward the city when they suddenly (?saw) two cars come up and force the taxi between them. Men with automatic weapons got out of the cars, pushed their weapons through the windows of the taxi, and forced it to stop. [sentence as heard] They dragged the taxi driver out, replaced him with one of their group, and drove away from the scene.

Later, in another area, they were taken out of the taxi and put in the trunk of a second car where the abducted men said they had found it difficult to breathe. They were driven away and ended up in a garage. After discussions there, these men began to ask who they were. The men did not speak very much other than Arabic.

After a while another man came; he appeared to be some kind of chief. After a lengthy discussion they realized—they were told—that a mistake had been made. It had been discovered that these were Swedes; the kidnappers thought that the two were West Germans. After further discussion they were eventually put into a car again—this time inside the car—and told to stay on the floor and not look up, otherwise they would be shot; this was to ensure that the Syrian Army checkpoint would not be able to see that there were kidnap victims in the car. They were again driven to the airport road and released there. They were picked up by a Lebanese family who came along in a taxi and who brought them to the hotel.

[Announcer] So now they are together with you in Beirut, unharmed.

[Ramberg] They are here, unharmed, after something which seems to have been a mistake. They lost their equipment and luggage. The taxi has not been found yet, either. But they are unharmed.

[Announcer] And nothing is known, whether there was a particular group behind this?

[Ramberg] No, we know nothing about that. But they had been told that the kidnappers thought they were Germans. The fact that these armed men were trying to kidnap West Germans and had information that they were on the way from the airport should indicate a possible link with the Al-Hamadah affair in West Germany, where two Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim brothers are on trial, one of them for participating in an aircraft hijacking and the other for participating in the kidnappings of West Germans here.

We know that there are groups here, pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim groups, who are interested in getting hold of West Germans in order to exert pressure on the West German Government, and it is probable that this was a mistake.

'Reliable' Sources Say Waite in Iranian Embassy

NC120809 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic 10 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Reliable Lebanese sources have affirmed to AL-NASR that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is alive and has been in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut since his abduction a year ago, not having been outside the embassy since then. The same sources add that the rest of the foreign hostages are held in the southern suburb of Beirut under the guard of Iranian personnel and Lebanese agents of the Iranian regime.

According to these sources, the hostages are being held in three warehouses in the suburb, and only one organization is behind the kidnappings, despite the issuance of statements bearing the names of various groups.

UNRWA Employees To Be Exchanged for 'Pledge'

NC111811 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Our radio has received information on the imminent release of the two kidnapped UNRWA employees following PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's intercession with his supporters in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. It should be noted that the kidnappers are pro-Fatah.

According to the same information, the Swede Jan Stening and Norwegian William Jorgensen will be set free in exchange for a pledge from UNRWA not to dismiss any more of the UNRWA Palestinian employees accused of stealing fuel and other materials.

Syria 'Urged' To Intercede for Hamadahs

NC111338 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 11 (AFP)—The abductors of West German engineer Ralph Schray on Thursday urged Syria to intercede on behalf of two Lebanese Shi'ites, 'Abbas and Muhammad Hamadah, who are being held in West Germany, Lebanese security sources said.

They told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the request had been passed on to Syrian forces that currently control the mainly Moslem western sector of the Lebanese capital, where Mr. Schray was kidnapped January 27.

'Abbas Hamadah is currently on trial in Duesseldorf on charges of having brought explosives into West Germany, while his brother Muhammad is accused of complicity in the hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut in June 1985.

Lebanese sources said "negotiations for Mr. Schray's release are continuing, with the kidnappers displaying good intentions."

FRG Envoy on Schray Release

NC111605 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The FRG ambassador to Lebanon has said that he has no new information about the fate of kidnapped FRG national Ralph Schray. Referring to the deadline given by Syria to the kidnappers, which did not produce any results, the ambassador said that the Syrians promised to exert efforts, but it is clear that they will not succeed.

Group Claims Attack Against Syrian Position

NC112042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] An unidentified man has contacted various media on behalf of an organization called the Martyr Kamal Junblatt Group. He claimed responsibility for an attack in which arms equipped with silencers were used against a Syrian unit in the Al-Manarah area at 2020 this evening. He said that the attack left one Syrian soldier dead and another injured.

Israeli Warplanes Resume Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC111605 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes began carrying out mock raids over the Sidon area and its camps a short time ago, dropping flares. The aircraft are being confronted by antiaircraft weapons.

Israeli Military Activities in West Al-Biqa'

NC120717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', extensive Israeli military activity has been observed on the Qilya combat line over the past few hours. The Israeli troops have set up new positions on the Al-Ahmadiyah ridges and mounted a wide-scale search campaign in surrounding areas.

Afghanistan

Reactions to Gorbachev, Najibullah Statements

Wakil: 'Decisive Answer'

LD111919 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] According to international media reports, the foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan has stressed the great importance of the statements made by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, who is on a visit to Libya, stated in an interview: Without a doubt this good-will gesture of the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Union is welcomed with understanding throughout the world. There is no pretext left for the enemies of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister said: The statements by the president of Afghanistan and the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee are a decisive answer to those certain circles, persons, and governments who questioned the truth about the removal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The Afghan leadership, led by esteemed Najibullah, president and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, supports the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, which paves the way to find a solution for the situation in our country and a number of regional and international issues.

Having assessed the statement by M.S. Gorbachev from the viewpoint of the next round of Afghan-Pakistani negotiations, 'Abdul Wakil pointed out that this stand taken by the Afghan and Soviet leadership will facilitate the negotiation's success.

The foreign minister said: We want the Pakistani side to value the flexibility of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and to show similar goodwill so that the agreements may be signed. We desire the end of bloodshed in our country so that our people, at last, will be able to live and work in peace.

The foreign minister added that the national reconciliation policy is bearing fruit: We are sure the situation in our country will return to normal immediately after the main elements of instability is removed—that is, imperialist interference in our country's internal affairs. A solution to the situation around Afghanistan will not only improve the climate in the region but will contribute greatly to the cause of international peace.

Hailed by National Front

LD120921 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 11, BAKHTAR—The statement of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC as well as that of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU CC, about the Geneva talks and the matters relating to the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union were received with profound enthusiasm of the people of Afghanistan, says a solidarity message released by National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The policy of Republic of Afghanistan reflected in the policy of national reconciliation has given a new impetus to the process of Geneva talks and has given it a new qualitative and determining phase.

It should be pointed out, the message indicates, that the success to this effect is due to the flexible position taken by the Republic of Afghanistan in Geneva talks. The Central Council of National Front holds in high esteem the understanding reached between the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR.

The Central Council of the Front will assist by all means the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan for achieving a coalition government and drawing the opposition to it, says the statement.

BAKHTAR Praises Statements

LD120741 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 11, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

President Najibullah's statement of February eight on the forthcoming round of Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan is significant and encouraging for the people of Afghanistan as the honest and sincere stand of the Afghan leadership was once again manifested in it. The statement also showed the peaceful efforts of Afghanistan vis-a-vis the solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The statement specified the date for the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan to their peaceful country in order to further help the process of Geneva talks.

If a short glance is thrown to the history of Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan it will become quite clear that in order to expedite the process of the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has always manifested its political good will and necessary flexibility with an aim to ensuring an early political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Right now the people and the state of the Republic are following this process with optimism.

After the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation emanating from the new political thinking, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken peaceful initiatives for political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Presently, the policy of national reconciliation has been converted to a new political platform for all the patriots wishing to end bloodshed and war and to establish peace and security in the country.

The proposal of the formation of a coalition government, freedom of political parties in the framework of law, the approval of the constitution of the Republic, all and all are great political gains of national reconciliation, each of which opens the path further towards the solution of problems in Afghanistan and around it.

M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his statement on Afghanistan, on the one hand, specified the clear position of that country vis-a-vis the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and on the other reaffirmed the policy of Afghan national reconciliation as a manifestation of new political thinking for the solution of regional conflicts. The statements by the leaders of the two countries, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, testify to the fact that both countries are eager to cooperate for ending war and bloodshed and to defend the political identity of Afghanistan as a free, independent, non-aligned country in international sphere. Both, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have demonstrated political determination for providing political grounds for achieving peace and security in Afghanistan and the region. They have called on all peaceful forces to help responsibly to the cause of peace in Afghanistan.

The cause of peace is the legitimate aspiration of the people of Afghanistan and the people are seeking their aspiration in the context of national reconcilitation and firmly believe that peace will be achieved in their country.

Hatif Says No 'Civil War' After Withdrawal

AU111412 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Geneva, Feb 11 (AFP)—A senior Afghan official vowed here Thursday that a Soviet troop pullout would not trigger civil war and bloodshed in the country.

Abdurrahim Hatif, head of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, told a news conference that as soon as "the rebels stop receiving aid from abroad and having a sanctuary in Pakistan," fears of a civil war could be over.

He played down the role of the Afghan Communist Party in a future reconciliation government, and said the Afghan Constitution did not give priority to the ruling party.

Asked whether the participation of former Afghan King Zahir Shah would be acceptable to him, Mr. Hatif said, "Reconciliation leaves out no one," and necessarily includes all parties.

But, he warned, the problem involves the Afghan people alone—no outside party could impose its conditions or negotiate the issue directly with the United States or the Soviet Union.

Observers said this was a veiled reference to Pakistan, which shelters the Afghan resistance and is involved in the peace talks.

If an agreement is reached in U.N.-mediated Afghan-Pakistani talks here by mid-March, Moscow has vowed to pull its troops out of Afghanistan as of May 15. Conditions include halting foreign aid to the Afghan mujahidin.

Mr. Hatif said that if all conditions were met the troops could pull out within 10 months, a timetable already mooted by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Hatif described his national reconciliation movement as a non-governmental movement, and said he was not a member of the Afghan Communist Party.

The commission was approved by the country's Revolutionary Council Presidium in September 1986 and formed in January 1987.

Mr. Hatif was also the chairman of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front, the umbrella organization for all authorized political activity in Afghanistan.

He arrived in Geneva to attend sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and discuss conditions for the four million to five million Afghan refugees with the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Yunis Khalis on Make-Up of Coalition Government

OW120747 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 KYODO—Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, president of Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (IUAM), Friday said that some "Muslims associated with the communist government of Gen. Najibullah" could be included in the transitional government in Kabul.

Khalis told a group of journalists that the seven-party alliance of Afghan mujahidin groups have chalked out the mode for the formation of the interim government but he was not at liberty to disclose its details.

However, he said the head of state and the chief executive of the proposed government would be from among the mujahidin, with representation from Afghan refugees in the form of ministers and other key office bearers. Some Muslims associated with the government of Najibullah could also be included in the government, he said.

Khalis discounted reports that a member of the Afghan alliance Mir Sayyed Hamid Gaylani was the moving spirit behind the recent public meetings in quetta and tribal areas demanding the return of the former King Zahir Shah as the head of an interim government.

Bangladesh

80 Killed, 476 Injured in Election Violence

BK120248 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] BSS, quoting official sources, says 80 people were killed and 476 others injured in Union Parishad [council] elections during clashes between supporters of contesting candidates. Of the total deaths, 25 were killed in Dhaka division, 21 in Chittagong division, 23 in Khulna division, and 11 in Rajshahi division.

Opposition Calls For More Protests 13-14 Feb

BK120854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia have accused the government for its failure to maintain law and order during the Union Parishad [council] elections. In separate statements in Dhaka they alleged that the government is patronizing anti-social elements and so no impartial peaceful elections are possible under this government. They announced a dawn-to-dusk protest program tomorrow and on Sunday in support of their demand for the resignation of President Ershad.

As already reported, more than 150 people have been killed and over 8,000 injured in poll violence in Bangladesh. Official figures, however, put the death toll at 80 and the injury figure at about 480.

India

Spokesman Reiterates Stand on McMahon Line

BK111602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 530 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi today reiterated its stand that the McMahon Line demarcated the boundary between India and China in the eastern sector. Responding to queries by newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the customary traditional boundary between India and China in the eastern sector has been further formalized by the McMahon Line.

The spokesman was asked to comment on the reported press briefing by a spokeswoman at the Chinese Foreign Office in Beijing that China would never recognize the McMahon Line. The spokesman said it is India's policy to maintain peace and tranquility all along the border and settle all issues through peaceful negotiations.

Punjab State Declared 'Notified Area'

BK111618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The whole of Punjab has been declared as a notified area under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act. This is to provide deterrent punishments to those found in possession of illicit arms, ammunition, and explosives. The notification was issued in Chandigarh last night. The punishment under the act ranges from 5 years to life imprisonment plus fine.

The state government has directed the district authorities to cancel the bail of all suspected terrorists arrested under the act. Subordinate courts have released about 750 suspected terrorists on bail following the striking down of some provisions of the act. The Supreme Court restored the operation of the provisions following an appeal by the state government. The bails are being canceled in view of the apprehension that their release has led to a spurt in the killings in the state.

5 Killed by Punjab 'Terrorists' 11 Feb

BK120759 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were killed by terrorists in separate incidents last night. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh that the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in village Madhok under Lopoke police station, killing three people. A shopkeeper was gunned down at village (Velai). In the third incident, the terrorists killed a farmer in Kapur village in Jullundur District.

Violence Continues in Gurkha Agitation

BK120910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] More reports of violence and arson have been received from different parts of Darjeeling District on the second day of the 40-day bundh [strike] called by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front]. The district magistrate told our correspondent that a state government official was shot at by GNLF activists at his residence last night. He was rushed to the hospital. He is stated to be out of danger. The district magistrate also said that two office buildings at Tindharia and Tagda were burned down.

Meanwhile, attendance in government offices in the three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling further improved today. Shops and several business establishments are open. The district magistrate also said that efforts are on to ply buses from Darjeeling to Kalimpong in Siliguri under police escort.

Cooperation Accord With Poland Extended

BK120649 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] India and Poland today signed an extension to the existing program of cooperation between the two countries. The agreement was signed by the minister of the state office for scientific and technological development of Poland, Mr Konrad Tott, and the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, in New Delhi. Under the agreement, the two countries will cooperate in fields of electronics, computer science, foundry technology, biotechnology, and immunology.

Paper Views Ziaul Haq's Alarm Over Submarine

BK121007 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Fake Fears Over 'Chakra'"]

[Text] Some people appear to make a habit of crying wolf on one pretext or another to extract additional advantages from their benefactors. General Ziaul Haq, President of Pakistan, is one such who has made a fine art of it. Only now he has shortened the gap in the sequence of his periodic denunciation of threats to Pakistan emanating from India and, as a corollary, to the United States. His latest is about the Soviet-built nuclear-powered—not nuclear-armed—submarine "Chakra" leased to India for training of naval personnel. In an interview to two US journalists—timed to coincide its publication with the induction of the submarine into the Indian Navy by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 3 February—General Ziaul Haq has found in it a "serious threat". According to the General, the submarine "Chakra" in the Indian Navy was a major addition "to the Soviet fleet" straddling the region from Aden in West Asia to Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam. The General thought it necessary, in this connection, to remind Washington of "India's ambitions to become a regional super power from the Persian Gulf to the coast of China", which according to him, fits in with Soviet plans in the region.

What is easily discernible is that General Ziaul Haq said all this in response to suggestive questions from the interviewers. The interview added that "Moscow's stealthy decision to build India's military might with nuclear submarines and AWACS-style radar planes" would jeopardise "U.S. and Western security". He reiterated Pakistan's demand for the supply of the AWACS from the U.S. "before it was too late".

It is not difficult to read into this the handiwork of the lobby working for the U.S. military-industrial complex which has obviously stepped up its sales promotion drive with an eye on a goodly share from the 4.02 billion dollar bonanza that the Reagan administration has promised to the General. The timing of the interview would help push through new orders for high-priced sophisticated weapon systems. For Pakistan, it will help shore up its military power in the region in which the Ziaul Haq regime stands to lose its importances if Afghanistan secures a political settlement and peace returns in West Asia. The aim of this new round of crying wolf, using India as the bug-bear, is all too clear despite the verbal camouflage.

Paper on Jayewardene's Visit to Delhi

BK111330 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 88 p 11

[Editorial: "After the Visit"]

[Text] President Jayewardene's recent visit to New Delhi seems to have boosted his morale which will help him in his efforts to tackle the problems at home. Apart from holding elections to the proposed provincial councils and implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, he has to curb JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] extremism and also to deal with the critics in his party and the rivals in the opposition. At such a juncture the thought that New Delhi is still with him should be of no small comfort to him. But India has also to play its cards carefully so that its interests may not suffer by its prolonged entanglement in the affairs of the neighbouring country. The IPKF should complete its tasks before it decides to withdraw from Sri Lanka but there are other areas where India's involvement need not be hasty. This obviously explains New Delhi's insistence on time to study the draft of an Indo-Sri Lankan treaty which Mr Jayewardene had brought with him during his visit. It would have helped if the details of the draft were not kept a secret and the public taken into confidence in such a vital matter. From Mr Jayewardene's point of view, the treaty will help him, particularly when it comes as a complement to the accord. India has experienced signing a few friendship treaties but apparently New Delhi has no desire to rush into signing a treaty with Sri Lanka which is facing problems unique to it. India will make up its mind only after studying the pros and cons of the provisions of the Jayewardene draft.

More essential than any treaty is prompt action to resolve the ethnic crisis by implementing the Sri Lankan accord. Mr Jayewardene's declaration that elections to the provincial councils will be held in March or April may look too rosy. The Northern and Eastern Provinces are still not free from violence. Similarly, it is not certain that the LTTE and other organisations representing the Tamils will participate in the polls. In case of a large-scale boycott, the very purpose of the elections will be defeated. Even those who want to vote will find it difficult to exercise their franchise if at least a semblance

of normalcy is not restored in the strife-torn areas. That is why it has become imperative that the IPKF should complete its mission as soon as possible so that the people in the two provinces can exercise their franchise. Granting them their rights and an element of self-government specified is one way of tackling roots of violence in the two provinces.

Briefs

1988 Trade Deficit

India's trade deficit during the first 9 months of the current financial year declined by about 300 crore rupees. This was stated by the finance and commerce minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, at a meeting of the consultative committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. Mr Tiwari said exports during this period amounted to 11,200 crore rupees registering a growth rate of about 25 percent over the corresponding period of last year. The target set for the current year is 13,800 crore rupees. Referring to imports, Mr Tiwari said they increased by 13.5 percent totaling 16,000 crore rupees. Much of the increase is due to the import of crude oil and petroleum products. [Text] [*Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 88 BK*]

Iran

USSR's Petrovskiy Arrives in Tehran 11 Feb

LD111733 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy heading a delegation arrived here today at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Upon his arrival Petrovskiy congratulated the 9th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and said that during his six-day stay here he would discuss the Iraq-Iran war, Persian Gulf crisis and Afghanistan as well as other international developments, with Iranian officials.

The Soviet deputy minister referring to the Afghan issue said solution to the crisis would make regional and international situation "more healthy". The solution would also help settle others issues, he added.

In the wake of Kremlin's announcement that Soviet forces would withdraw from Afghanistan in May, IRNA correspondent asked Petrovskiy what the next Soviet move would likely be if Geneva negotiations did not reach any result?

Petrovskiy in response expressed hope that withdrawal of the Soviet forces would be realised, noting "The situation seems both appropriate and sensitive and we should not let this chance to slip in light of the world's focus on the ssue".

Moscow has been waiting for such an opportunity for a long time and "now national understanding in Afghanistan together with political outcome of the visits of the UN envoy have made settlement of the issue more hopeful".

Meanwhile, Larijani noting the visit of his Soviet counterpart on the auspicious anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory in Iran said "We understand the Soviet Union attaches special importance to the Islamic Revolution".

Larijani termed prospect of Tehran-Moscow relations as "very good and positive" and said the two sides would discuss matters of mutual interest including the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran.

Lays Wreath at Beheshti's Tomb

LD111939 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy accompanied by the Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev went to Behesht-e Zahra cemetery here this afternoon to pay homage to the tomb of martyr Ayatollah Beheshti.

The Soviet official laid a wreath on the tomb of Islamic Iran's first chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti and 72 other martyrs among them several Cabinet ministers and Majlis deputies. The group attained martyrdom when a bomb planted by global arrogance's mercenaries, went off at the Islamic Republic Party office here on 28 June 1981.

Yazdi Returns From PRC, Assesses Visit

NC120720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Mohammad Yazdi, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majlis, who led a parliamentary delegation on a week-long visit to the PRC at the invitation of the National People's Congress, returned to Tehran this morning. During the visit he held talks with high-level officials of the PRC. Mr Yazdi talked by telephone with our correspondent on his return.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Yazdi, could you please tell us about the framework of your talks with the PRC officials, the focal point? In general, what was the outcome of your visit?

[Yazdi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The visit to China of this parliamentary delegation—I was accompanied by five deputies and two directors general of the Foreign Ministry—was in response to a visit to Iran last year by a PRC parliamentary delegation. We held talks and meetings in a very friendly and extraordinarily cordial and frank atmosphere. Issues were reviewed and clearly debated. Our talks generally focused on our bilateral relations. Our

talks centered on renewing, expanding, and consolidating these ties, ties that were strengthened with the visit of the esteemed speaker of the Islamic Majlis, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to the PRC. Following his visit, the level of our relations progressed remarkably.

In fact, this visit was a followup to this progress. Political and economic issues and exchanges between the two countries were discussed. I believe the result of this visit was, in addition to the resumption of these talks, the strengthening of our friendship and mutual relations. Issues pertaining to the region and the latest position on the war were discussed in particular. The talks with high-level PRC officials, particularly the esteemed chairman of the Congress, were very clear and explicit. You have no doubt heard news reports, and it was clearly stated in officials' comments as well, about our views that the Soviet Union must withdraw from Afghanistan, that the United States should definitely leave the Persian Gulf, and that it is inappropriate and illogical to tolerate the interference of outsiders in another country. Our talks centered on maintaining and expanding our ties. On the whole, the visit was very pleasant, and it will certainly have an immense effect on bilateral relations. These results will soon be apparent in follow-up sessions with the executive authorities.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr Yazdi. [end recording]

Velayati Delivers Friday Presermon Address

LD121255 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was the pre-sermon speaker at the Friday prayers in Tehran today. We continue the news reports with the remarks made by our country's foreign minister.

At the beginning of his remarks, the foreign minister offered congratulations to the imam of the ummah, to the martyr-nurturing ummah, and to all Muslims of the world on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of Islamic revolution victory. He expressed the hope that in the coming years the world will witness the further growth of Islam and the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in realizing its sacred objectives.

Referring to the conspiracies of the West and of world arrogance against the Muslims throughout history, he said: Despite various conspiracies by the colonialists throughout history, the Islamic resistance has always prevailed in the Islamic territories. This resistance never disappeared and reached its zenith in victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. This revolution became victorious at a time when all un-Islamic and anti-Islamic ideologies had proved to be futile. Moreover, in the depths of despair the victory of the Islamic Revolution was a ray of hope to all the Muslims and to the oppressed nations of the world; this is an undeniable fact.

Listing some examples of the revolution's effects on the Islamic world, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the world witnessed Islamic revolutions in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Egypt, and now the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine. No doubt these transormations are inspired by the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This is admitted by both friends and foes alike.

He added: The formation of the Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamic Jihad organization in other parts of the Islamic world are indicative of the fact that the Muslim people, by following the example of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, have rejected all un-Islamic ideologies and realized that the only way to freedom is through Islam. Through Islam they managed to kick Israel and its allies out of Lebanon and the occupying forces out of Afghanistan. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and this system's success in overcoming its domestic and external difficulties made this system a symbol of hope to the world's Muslims. If they were to resort to Islam, they would see salvation.

Referring to Afghanistan, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that it will be satisfied with nothing less than a nonaligned, independent, and Muslim Afghanistan. Iran supports the righteous demand of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to establish an independent government. The Islamic Republic adheres to its significant foreign policy principle of not interfering in the affairs of other countries. However, it deems it right to defend the interests of Muslims all over the world. We welcome the idea of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. This would give an opportunity to the people of Afghanistan to take charge of their own destiny.

Referring to the Persian Gulf, the foreign minister said: The events in the Persian Gulf prove that Iran's policy is justified, that is, the security of the Persian Gulf should be in the hands of the regional countries, and the presence of the foreign forces only further escalates tension.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD121340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] On the first Friday of the 10th year of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the politico-religious sermons of the Friday prayers were delivered today throughout the country. Today, Tehran residents filled the grounds of Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, and they performed the Friday prayers led by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

In his Friday prayer sermons, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council referred to the great problems and difficulties which the Muslim nation of Iran have left behind after 9 years of struggle and self-sacrifice in

the face of the plots of the enemies of Islam. He described the decisive leadership of the imam of the ummah in achieving the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He then recounted the gains of the revolution and said: Full political, economic, cultural, and military independence in all dimensions; the preservation and protection of national wealth and resources from foreigners; the raising of the standard of living in village and rural regions and the provision of welfare services needed by those villages, including water, electricity, telephone, and training and instruction centers; the increase in the farmers' income; the elimination of arrogance in society; the ending of the political life of affiliated [political] parties and minigroups in Iran; Islamicizing and popularizing the laws; the blossoming of talents in the field of industry especially military industries; and the development and restructuring of the armed forces and the creation of huge mobilization and IRGC forces to the extent that they confron the enemies of Islam like mountains full of faith and self-sacrifice—all these are among the great achievements of the Islamic Revolution during the past 9 years. These achievements have caused the United States and its allies to search for a way out of the Persian Gulf region. Here we have seen that the Islamic Revolution has a presence on the international scene and that it gives moral support and hope to Muslims of the world to continue their struggle against hegemony.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council then pointed to the clamors raised by the enemies of Islam to drag Iran into a compromise over the imposed war and referred to what they say: War is not in your interest, peace is good. Then he remarked: The great nationwide march of Revolution Day, 11 February, which the world witnessed is a slap in the face of those who have no right to speak on behalf of the people of Iran. They want an unconditional peace. They want us to overlook the blood of the martyrs, but they are not prepared to name the aggressor in the imposed war. Regarding those who, with the coming Majlis elections, are raising a hue and cry that there is no freedom, if they intend to claim they are speaking on behalf of the people, then they should know that people can speak for themselves through their extensive presence in the marches and their active participation and presence on the battlefronts. You who do not accept the viceregency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih], what would you do if the government did not maintain your security and the police did not to protect you? Unconditional freedom does not exist and will never exist anywhere. In Iran freedom exists within the limits and framework of the law of the shari'a. There is more freedom here than is permitted by religious law.

Continuing his remarks, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council pointed to the orders of the imam of the ummah concerning the formation of a consultative assembly [majma'-e mashverati] to assess government edicts [hukm]. He said: The shari'a laws can be divided into two parts: One part concerns the laws on prayer, fasting, pilgrimage and worship, transactions, and such laws that can be found in any book or work on jurisprudence. The other part concerns those laws that can only be understood by experts and well-informed persons who have full understanding of the situation and developments. This category of laws needs a Mojtahid [senior clergyman in Shi'ite hierarchy] who is aware of the needs of the times. One day it may not be in the interest of people to revolt. Another day, in spite of the fact that there may be a military curfew and life or death questions may be involved, sitting at home may be religiously unacceptable. Thus, the need to resolve issues and points of religious law gave rise to the need to form this consultative assembly.

Continuing his sermons, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council referred to the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine and the crimes of the regime occupying Jerusalem in the occupied territory. Addressing the Muslim Palestinian strugglers, he stressed: Between a glorious death and an abject life, chose the former. Your uprising is a way toward life and living, and you should know that those kinder-than-mother nannies, who shed crocodile tears for you and tell you to make peace, are your enemies and murderers. Pay no attention to their requests. You have chosen the correct path to victory, and Muslims in Arab countries should pressure their leaders to defend the rights of the Palestinian nation in the face of the occupying Zionists. Otherwise, Muslims should revolt and provide as many arms and resources needed for Palestinian Muslims as they can. If they can not even do this, then they should stage demonstrations condemning the crimes of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories, and they should know that the Iranian nation, with all its resources and in accordance with its religious and legal duties, continues to stand beside the Palestinian nation.

In the Friday prayer sermons and on the occasion of the anniversary of the issuance of the imam of the ummah's order to form the Islamic Revolution Committees, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili expressed appreciation for the outstanding services by this institution.

Khamene'i's Revolution Anniversary Speech

LD111407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Azadi Square in Tehran on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Islamic revolution on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. See what God has written in his pure book. I offer my congratulations to each and every member of the Iranian nation on this day. I congratulate those selfless women and men who, by sacrificing their blood and with their immense resistance, brought down the evil monarchy and brought mighty America to its knees here in the region.

Blessed be this day for those brave and zealous youths who defended the gains of the revolution with all their might, and also for the vigilant and alert fighters, who during these 9 years have defended Islam, their religion, their honor, and the fruit of their martyrs' blood at the battlefronts of the war, the war imposed on the nation of Iran in order to destroy the revolution. Blessed be this day for the youths, some of whom gained eternal honor and the status of martyrdom and many of whom are still fighting on the fronts; and for every committed, zealous, and courageous person in the country who take part in the huge public mobilization forces in order to defend the country, and who strengthen the armed forces, create epics, and gloriously defend justice against injustice. I congratulate each believer, all sincere and sympathetic people, who in these 9 years have taken over the reconstruction of a country whose enemies ruined it over the course of several centuries. Moreover, despite these 9 difficult years, they have pushed the country forward toward realizing the aims of the Islamic Revolution. I also offer sincere congratulations on behalf of myself and of the great Iranian nation to our dear imam and great leader, who has been the standard bearer of this convoy of light and the source of enthusiasm since the start of the Islamic movement until the victory of the revolution and from the moment of the revolution's victory to this very day.

O you dear brothers and sisters who have gathered in this square today. O my compatriot brothers and sisters all over the country. Today marks the start of the 10th anniversary of the revolution. We have left 9 years behind. During these 9 years, our Islamic Revolution moved forward in a straight line with strong and firm steps. The revolution moved forward with almighty succor and continuous divine assistance step by step and from trench to trench, despite countless big and small conspiracies, despite the military, propaganda, and political might pitted against this revolution and this nation. The enemy trenches and earthworks were captured one after another. Today, after 9 years, compared with other revolutions and compared with the achievements of other nations who were subjected to much less pressure, our nation has chalked up many achievements and come through difficult moments with pride. Just like the revolution victory, which itself was a unique revolution in the history of world revolutions, the 9-year life of this revolution is also unique in the history of contemporary and past revolutions.

This country and this nation was blessed with three important gifts, and the same three gifts have made the major powers and all other dominant powers of the world sensitive toward Iran during the past 200 years. One gift is the huge wealth of this nation. During the early days of colonialism, this wealth was not properly recognized. However, Iran's strategic position was highly significant to them. Iran had political wealth and geographical wealth. During later periods, when colonialism gradually took hold in our country and when the major powers reaqched their hands and claws into every corner of this country, it began to recognize the huge material resources of this nation. Iran is classed as one of the richest countries in the world in view of its natural resources: oil and gas, which are the most important energy sources for the world today and tomorrow; metal, gold, and silver; copper, zinc, and tin mines; and many other minerals. The arrogant, selfish, and plundering powers of the world realized this. That was one gift.

The second gift that attracted foreign powers was the natural talents of Iranians. This has been confirmed in past decades, during the past 100 or 150 years, by many visitors to Iran, be they politicians, scholars, experts on Iranian affairs and history, and researchers. They all emphasized that the nation of Iran is made up of intelligent and talented people. Our past history also proves this. After the early spread of Islam over a large part of the world, the Iranian nation was the one nation that contributed the most scientific and cultural achievements to the world in the name of Islam and by using the power of Islam. Our scientific books, our philosophy, knowledge, medical science, astronomy, and mathematics are still being taught in the world. No nation has had so many scholars and researchers as our nation. This is a natural talent.

We do not wish to boast about our talent, as some other countries do in order to humiliate others. However, God says: Count the bounties of your Lord. [Koranic verse] This is a divine bounty possessed by our nation; we should recognize it and use it. Our enemies realized this. They realized that an intelligent and talented nation, with so much wealth and so many resources, situated in a sensitive part of the world, would become a major power should it become independent and allowed to develop. Such a nation would put an end to the greed of colonialism and would halt the influence of global powers, not only in this region but in other parts of the world. This was the second gift drawing the colonialists to our country and nation.

There was also a third gift, which was also very important: The deep faith of our nation. Colonialists experienced this in the tobacco episode [event in the late 19th century when people boycotted the purchase and smoking of tobacco to protest Qajar Shah's concession to a foreign company to have a monopoly over the sale of Iran's tobacco], during the constitutional movement, during Iran's wars with Tsarist Russia, during various events in this country. Political observers who studied events saw that the great element and fundamental lever that moved this nation was their Islamic faith. A clergyman, a most senior clergyman, a great preacher was able to inform the people, so that during the tobacco episode, the Iranian nation was able to bring British colonialism to its knees.

This same faith could be observed throughout this region, in the subcontinent, in other areas, and in some Arab countries. However, the rising tide of faith was in

the country of Iran, particularly notable in the all-encompassing organization of the clergy. The clergy, the banner carrier of the Islamic faith, would receive its inspiration from one source, They had a very popular and delicate formation. There was a clergyman or preacher in every village and every town who spoke about the history of religion, who kept the faith alive. This was the religious faith of the people; it was strong and deep.

These three gifts forced British, French, Russian, and finally, during the past decades, U.S. colonialism, to interfere in Iran, to prevent Iran from turning into an Islamic Iran. The struggles began in 1962, led by the imam of the ummah, and this struggle continued for 15 years. Due to the unique acts of self-sacrifices in these streets, throughout the country, in the universities, in the mosques, and in the seminaries, the struggle was protected and backed by all strata. The Islamic Revolution, Islam's new lease on life, and the banner of Islam rose from that very place which, for the colonialists, was more important than any other place in the world. The Islamic Revolution heralded the renewed greatness and the new life given by the Koran to all Muslims. This was a unique event.

In addition, there was another point that made all the powers intensely sensitive to the revolution, that is, the presence of 1 billion Muslims around this Islamic abode, that is, Iran. To the West, to North Africa, and as far as the Mediterranean; to the East, to the length of the subcontinent, and in many other countries, there are hundreds of millions of Muslims totaling 1 billion who possess this same faith, these same feelings. However, these feelings and this faith have been repressed by the global powers. The uprising of the Muslims of Iran and the new movement of Islam in our country have awakened all these suppressed feelings, which is why, after our revolution became victorious, the global powers led by the United States—despite differing and conflicting objectives—got together to prevent this revolution from succeeding.

Nine years have elapsed since then. In those 9 years the three gifts that attracted the colonialists through the years have grown and developed day by day. The talent of our nation increased in these 9 years, thanks to the freedom of this nation and our independence at all levels. The dormant talents of the imprisoned and chained forces awakened. Today, in industry, military industries, politics, all aspects of building and construction in the country, we can see how our nation's talents have blossomed. This nation continues to encourage the emergence of the people's enormous and surging talent, in order to place it at the service of the construction of the country, and to make the country prosperous for themselves, for all Muslims, and for all oppressed nations, thus benefitting the latter and becoming a source of fear to our enemies. This is one point.

Regarding the country's great wealth, these resources are being identified daily, and officials continue to identify the material and spiritual resources of this nation and country and draw up their plans accordingly. They want this wealth to be used for benefit of the country. The powers were denied access to these resources. Our oil, gas, land, and other resources supported the power of our enemies, and today they support our nation in its pride and for its happiness. The independence of this country is its prosperity and construction.

The people's Islamic faith has daily developed, grown, and blossomed. Today you can see that the same revolutionary fervor existing at the start of the revolution has crystallized and has even deepened and become more genuine and more effective in the theater of war, in building the country, in supporting the country's officials, in confronting the enemy, in declaring the country's political positions, and in the solid political presence of the nation in the scenes of marches, just like today.

Today they informed me that despite the declaration that marches would start at 0800, many groups had gathered in Azadi Square before 0800. Today, also, we can see that this huge crowd and this surging sea of the Iranian nation have gathered in this square. Throughout the country it is the same story. This shows the people's revolutionary fervor. Of our 9 years of freedom, 7 years and 5 months have been spent at war. No other revolution has fought so resolutely against the enemies of blasphemy and their plots and animosities. They have tried in the last few years to persuade us to compromise. It was these same powers that started the war in order to crush and obliterate the revolution, but when they saw that it was they themselves who would be harmed by this war, they tried to prevent our nation from achieving a military victory. As soon as they realized we could win militarily, they started to pressure us into making peace, and in the name of peace they tried to make us give up our rights to honor, freedom, and independence. They pressured us, but we stood steadfast with conscious freedom, with decisiveness.

Today this same nation states in its statement: We declare that this war will continue until we achiever a decisive and final victory over the agent of global arrogance, that is, the regime of Saddam Husayn. [crowd chants slogans, approval]

The success of this revolution in the organizing life in this country have been very striking. Our progress has brought us daily those things necessary for the administration of the country. Almighty God was a source of inspiration and assistance to this nation and helped the perceptive leader of this nation to provide the facilities needed. The command of our dear and great leader to establish a committee to ascertain the interests of the state, to issue governmental decrees, and to appoint officials was one of the great divine gifts. We are advancing along our path under the shadow of Islam's edicts

with the assistance and guidance of the Koran, and in those places where we have to look to the Koran and to Islam to remedy the difficulties and find a way to unravel the problems of this society which has for years on end been under colonialism's oppression, a group of select persons who have been appointed by the imam will find the ways [as heard]. They will find the means of untying these knots under the shadow of the teachings of the Koran and the guidance of Islam, and will implement them. That is, Islam will be established in every aspect of life in this country. This assembly, which the Islamic ruler and the vice-regency of the jurisconsult and the possessor of absolute and complete authority over the administration of the country has appointed, will—whenever they deem it appropriate to find solutions that help this nation move more easily toward its Islamic objectives and to preserve the system more strongly—provide that solution for executive bodies so that the structuring of the country and the state's political machinery will move forward day by day, based on the experiences gained. This is an experience, a lesson for all nations.

Dear brothers and sisters, I say to you: Today, 9 years after our revolution, our global enemies sense, more than ever, a weakness in the face of this revolution. Six months ago, America brought all its NATO allies and all its allies in the world into line with itself. They all came to the Persian Gulf. The presence of America and the Western fleets in the Persian Gulf has no aim other than to threaten our country and our revolution. However, our nation was not afraid of the threat. We stood up against the threat; we exposed the threat; we disgraced America before the eyes of the world. Today, America's allies and America itself—more pathetic than ever—have realized that their presence in the Persian Gulf has not reaped any benefits at all, and actually incurred great losses. Today, they are forced to gradually and slowly withdraw from the Persian Gulf before the eyes of the world. This is a great victory for the Iranian nation.

We will continue our path of resisting force and bullying. We will not surrender to any bullying in the future either. Another of the great experiences of this revolution has been the maintenance of the sense of unity and interdependence of the nation and the maintenance of the unbreakable interconnection and alliance between the nation and the country's authorities. This is our greatest experience. We have succeeded in travelling this path as a result of the blessing of the nation's unity. The enemies tried to create discord within our nation, but failed. They tried to separate the nation from the country's authorities, but failed. With the presence of the people; you, the great Iranian nation; you, the brave nation; you, the indescribably great nation, it was because of your presence, you brave heroes, that we succeeded in travelling this difficult path. We will never forget this experience.

Again, in the future, this nation, you, youths, young adults, fathers and mothers, women and men, will remove all obstacles, God willing, until the country fully develops; until all enmities have ceased; until all the roads have been opened, roads which colonialism wants to block. Until all these matters have been settled, the unity of the nation, the collective resistance of the nation, the closeness and sympathy of the nation must and will continue. [chants]

From the midst of this tremendous crowd on the ninth anniversary of the victory of our revolution I declare: The Islamic revolution of Iran intends to maintain its sovereignty, its territorial integrity; to completely revive and renew Islam and the Koran in this land, and to maintain national freedom and independence. No power anywhere in the world will be able to destroy or nullify this intention and this great national determination.

In the midst of this great crowd and on behalf of the Iranian nation I declare our full solidarity with all Muslim nations whose hearts cry out for the rule of Islam. We are brothers with all Muslim nations. Governments which rule Islamic countries in the name of Islam, but fight against Islam, are not one of us, nor do they belong to their own nation. We feel total solidarity and closeness with the Palestinian nation. The Palestian nation has today embarked on a difficult struggle, but one which will have a successful ending. The Iranian nation backs the Palestinian nation against Israel. At any point in time and to any extent possible, and if road is open to us, we will never stop supporting and helping the Palestinian nation. [chants]

I declare that U.S. policy has been defeated in our country and in the region. The United States has lost hope of regaining overlordship in this country and in this land. It must never allow itself this hope again. Our struggle with the United States, our struggle with any power wanting to subvert our independence and freedom, will never end. With the same strength that brought down the monarchical regime from its seat of power, we will struggle against powers which attack us and are hostile to this revolution. [chants]

Dear brothers and sisters: Today we are celebrating the ninth anniversary of the revolution. God willing, for many years to come our children—today's youth and today's babies—will celebrate this same occasion and talk about the progress made by this revolution. My advice as your brother, as your servant, as your representative, is this: Do not forget your Islamic faith, your political freedom, your sensitivity in the face of enemies, the maintenance of your unity, and, more than anything else, never forget your solidarity with, obedience to, and total alliance with the great and dear leader of the revolution. This has been the secret of our success until today and, with the Almighty's grace, will be the secret of our success in the future. This nation, with God's grace, will remove all obstacles. [chants]

I will take no more of your time. In conclusion, on the occasion of this celebration and this historical day, I once again offer my congratulations to the Iranian

nation, particularly to the fighters, the esteemed families of the martyrs, the dear maimed ones, to the prisoners of the imposed war and their families, and to all those who have struggled and suffered along this road. I pray to most exalted God for his eminence the imam's long life and greatness, and for the victory and honor of you, the dear nation. Peace and God's benedictions be upon you all.

Musavi Delivers Anniversary Speech in Esfahan

LD111228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] During the ceremonies in Imam Square in Esfahan on 11 February, in the presence of Ayatollah Taheri, the imam's representative and the Friday imam of Esfahan; the governor general; members of the clergy; people disabled in the war; and various strata of the people, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi expressed his congratulations on the blessed 10 Days of Dawn, saying: Those days are memorable, bringing to mind the memory of the climate which existed in those days and the climate in which we live today. Today we are a powerful arm for all Islamic nations and for the restoration of their Islamic honor. Today we are regarded throughout the world as a free and independent force. We should be thankful for this blessing we have received.

Prime Minister Musavi referred to various conspiracies of world arrogance in confronting the Islamic Revolution, saying: The wheels of industry and technology in colonialist countries are turning as a result of the wealth of the Muslim people of this region. The colonialists believe that one of their aims is to limit and isolate this revolution. However, today this revolution has spread to all parts of the world. We should be prepared to counteract any plots by the world-devouring United States.

In his speech the prime minister referred to yesterday's remarks by the imam of the ummah and said: The imam of the ummah graciously said: Whenever the arrogant powers smile at you, you should be know that there is conspiracy or greed in their minds. While the Islamic Republic upholds its commitments to Palestine and other parts of the world and as it moves along this path, Iran will be the object of the arrogant powers' vengefulness.

Our country's prime minister referred to the present situation in the region, saying: The aggressive U.S. plans in the Persian Gulf have borne virtually no fruit, and in this connection we note that we confronted them with the same weapons we used on 5 June 1963 and in the year 1357 [1978-79], and that was the strength, the power, and the victory of blood over swords. With this slogan our nation has overcome many crises. Our nation has also inherited this weapon from the 10 Days of Dawn. They have, in fact, acted in accordance with these remarks of the imam: We will remain steadfast to the last stage, to the last breath, and to the last drop of blood. Today we have proved to the world that the war is between blood and the sword, and we have proved that the weapon of Islam and faith is more powerful than any material weapon.

Tehran Marchers' Resolution on Anniversary

LD111443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] During the glorious marches of 11 February at Azadi Square the 14-article resolution of the marchers was read. The cries of "God is great" by the participants signaled approval of the resolution.

The resolution first refers to the 9 years of resistance and perseverance of the Muslim people of Iran against various plots of world infidelity and its agents. Expressing gratitude and appreciation for the wise and prophetic leadership of the great leader, the resolution states: Clarification of absolute vice-regency of jurisconsult by the imam of ummah has placed a large placard before the eyes of the world of Islam on which the solution for all difficulties is portrayed. It then ensured the victory of the Islam of the world's oppressed against American-style Islam.

The resolution also stresses the total readiness of the hezbollahi ummah to continue the sacred defense until final victory and the overthrow of the Zionist regime of Iraq and the removal of mischief in the region.

In addition, the resolution supports the justice-seeking struggles of the Muslim and oppressed nations of Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Kuwait, the Philippines, and Eritrea, and praises the bloodstained martyrs of the bloody Friday in Mecca, who were slain by the agents of the Hijaz regime in the safe divine sanctuary. The resolution describes global arrogance led by the United States as the principal agent for all inhumane policies throughout the world.

The resolution also stresses the need for the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement the universal charter of the Islamic Revolution, the charter which was drafted by the great leader of the Islamic Revolution at the beginning of the pilgrimage this year.

In conclusion, the resolution declares its categorical support for all institutions and bodies, particularly the assembly, to implement government decrees. It demands that the responsible authorities hasten to resolve the present problems and difficulties in society, to do so with regard to the recent words of his eminence the imam, to strive more than ever to bring to fruition all aspects of the political, economic, social and cultural activities of the Islamic regime, and to implement fully all the wishes of his eminence the imam and his great deputy.

Islamic Revolution Anniversary Marked in Moscow
LD111251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran was marked last night at the Friendship House in Moscow in the presence of foreign personalities.

During the ceremonies the president of the Iranology Department of the Soviet Oriental Studies Institute stressed the greatness of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and its effects on the world. He said: The USSR was the first country to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran, and now it wants to expand its friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Moscow explained the gains of the Islamic Revolution.

Spanish Envoy Summoned Over 'Biased' TV Program
LD111717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Following the showing of a short fictional and biased film against the Islamic Republic of Iran which was broadcast on Spanish television last night, the Spanish ambassador was called to our country's Foreign Ministry and a strongly worded protest note was handed to him. The Spanish ambassador apologized for the incident and said: The Spanish Government greatly values its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is pursuing a policy of broadening and strengthening friendly relations. Despite the considerable pressure that has been brought to bear on Spain by some countries, the country has not sent a fleet to the Persian Gulf. The Spanish ambassador said in conclusion that he would convey the Islamic Republic of Iran's protest to his government.

Argentina Apologizes for 'Insulting' TV Program
LD111801 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Adviser of Argentina's minister of foreign trade and industries apologised on behalf of the Buenos Aires government for the broadcast of a televised programme slandering the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The Argentine official went to the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires Wednesday to offer his government's apology and expressed hope the issue would not damage mutual relations.

Director of Argentina's TV Channel 2 which aired the insulting programme also apologised in a phone call to the Iranian Embassy.

Food Aid to Lebanese Muslims Reduces 'Pressure'
LD111902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Lebanese branch of Imam Khomeyni's relief committee has issued a statement outlining its program on the continued distribution of aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Jabal Amal region of southern Lebanon. On the basis of the report, the statement says: Food aid has been distributed in over 31 villages and towns in the border region of southern Lebanon.

Regarding the aid given to Lebanese Muslims, the official in charge of Imam Khomeyni's relief committee said: This aid reduces the economic pressures and conspiracies against Lebanese Muslims and helps them in their struggle against the Zionists.

REUTER Cited on Norwegian Tanker Attack
LD111234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] A giant Norwegian oil tanker this morning was attacked by speedboats in the south of the Persian Gulf and was set on fire, REUTER reports, citing shipping sources in the Persian Gulf. The fire has not yet been brought under control.

These sources said that during the attack on the 290,761-tonne oil tanker, "Happy Kari," flying the Norwegian flag, which was hit at a point 20 miles from Dubayy, none of the crew was injured.

Danish Supertanker Attacked by 'Speedboats'
LD121143 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] According to AFP, shipping sources in the region announced: The Danish supertanker "Kate Maersk" was attacked by speedboats this morning in the southern Persian Gulf and sustained damage. A detailed report has not been received on the extent of casualties and damage sustained by the tanker. According to the report, the attack on the 300,000-ton tanker "Kate Maersk" which had loaded along the coast of Hijaz took place at 2300 GMT off the UAE coast.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,109
LD111624 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi troop-concentration centers in Al-'Amarah (southeastern Iraq) and southern Basra three times Thursday. The jet fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy.

The 3109th communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above said Iranian naval forces intercepted nine cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

The communique said Iranian Air Force planes Wednesday carried out their patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of Iranian Navy.

Sporadic clashes along with exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire raged in the northwestern and southern fronts Wednesday being somewhat more intense in Sumar, Faqqeh, Kushk, and Zayd, said the communique. Some Iraqi forces were killed and wounded as a result of heavy Iranian fire on Iraqi positions and fortifications, it added.

In the western fronts, Iraqi tank fire was silenced in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar operational regions, said the communique adding an Iraqi patrol group was forced to flee when it attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Eynkhosh region.

The communique concluded by saying that some Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded when Iran's gendarmerie forces subjected enemy positions to their heavy fire destroying three bunkers and gun emplacements of theirs.

Iraqis Kill 12 in Fars Raid

LD111711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Three aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi regime intruded into the airspace over Fars Province at 1125 hours this morning and bombed a nonmilitary area. The enemy bombing raid martyred 12 of our fellow countrymen and a number were injured. Some damage was also suffered.

Iraq Threatened With Retaliation for Air Raid

LD111842 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Iraqi economic and military sites in the southern city of Al-Basrah will be shelled by Iranian combatants in the coming hours in retaliation for the dastardly Iraqi air raid on a civilian quarter in Fars Province before noon today, announced War Information Headquarters here today.

The WIH called on the remnant of the Al-Basrah residents who probably live near the eco-military centers, to immediately evacuate areas around these sites.

Twelve people were martyred and several others wounded when Iraqi warplanes attacked a civilian area in Fars Province at a time when the nation was celebrating the 9th anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran.

Iraqi Sites Near Al-Basrah Bombed

LD121021 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 12 FEB 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Iran's jet fighters heavily bombed concentration positions and fortifications of Iraqi forces in the operational regions in east of Al-Basrah at 10:10 hours local time (06:40 hours GMT) Friday. Announcing this, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported that the bombardment was in retaliation for the Thursday attack on Iraqi forces upon a civilian area in Iran's Fars Province.

The fighter bombers returned to their bases safely after inflicitng heavy casualties upon the enemy.

Pilot Comments on Downed Jets

LD111848 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Bushehr, Feb. 11, IRNA—One of the Iranian pilots who participated in the downing of three Iraqi 'Mirage' war planes in dogfight over Persian Gulf Tuesday, elaborated on the daring operations here today.

He said that in the first mission over the waterway Iranian jets engaged intruding Iraqi warplanes in a dogfight at 10:11 hours local time (06:41 hours GMT) Tuesday, and fired two missiles at the enemy, blasting two Iraqi Mirages in the sky.

Iraqi pilots were killed immediately in mid-air and the two Mirages crashed in Persian Gulf waters, said the pilot.

In another mission over the Persian Gulf at 12:25 hours (09:55 GMT), he continued, Iranian jets took up to the sky to intercept two more intruding Iraqi mirages and fired two missiles at them.

One of the enemy war planes flying at a low altitude was shot down and its pilot was probably killed since he could not bail out. The other enemy Mirage awed by the combat prowess of the Iranian pilots preferred to turn tail and fled the scene, he concluded.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Vorontsov

Discusses Afghanistan With Junejo

BK111547 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov met with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. Vorontsov conveyed a message of good will and best wishes to Prime Minister Junejo from Soviet Prime Minister Ryzhkov. The prime minister asked him to convey his best wishes to Ryzhkov. Prime Minister Junejo and Vorontsov discussed in detail the current

efforts being made to find a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem through negotiations. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's support for the Geneva talks. He stressed the need for making interim arrangements in Kabul for stability and for realizing the return of Afghan refugees to their homes.

The prime minister later hosted a luncheon in honor of the distinguished guest.

Talks Called 'Fruitful'

BK111553 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistan has told the Soviet Union that it gives utmost importance to the arrangements being made for the return of Afghan refugees. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman at the end of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov's 2-day visit.

The spokesman described the talks held with the Soviet deputy foreign minister as very fruitful. The spokesman affirmed that Pakistan desires a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem and is fully interested in signing an agreement on this at the appropriate time.

Departure Statement Noted

BK111645 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov has said that the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will expedite the solution of all other problems in that country. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport today prior to his departure after talks with Pakistani leaders and officials. [passage omitted]

Commenting on his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, Vorontsov said that he had told them that Soviet leader Gorbachev's latest statement means that all the proposals made at the Geneva proximity talks have been accepted in order to facilitate the signing of the accord as soon as possible. He said that both sides have now begun to understand each other's position better. He noted that Pakistan is especially interested in the future of the Afghan refugees and that the Soviet Union also wants to improve the situation expeditiously so that the refugees can return to their homeland.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister said that the Soviet Government held detailed discussions about the refugees with UN officials and that it is ready to assist with the necessary arrangements to facilitate the refugees' return.

AFP Assesses Talks

BK111420 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 11 (AFP)—Soviet and Pakistani officials failed to reach agreement Thursday on the crucial question of forming an interim government in Afghanistan.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov left for home after 30 hours in Islamabad saying his country felt the question of an interim government in Kabul could be solved once a peace accord is signed in Geneva.

Mr Vorontsov, who flew here from New Delhi Wednesday after postponing his trip several times, met Pakistani leaders following Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement Monday of a 10-month troop withdrawal programme.

His meetings here focused on transitional arrangements for Afghanistan now that there is virtual agreement on a United Nations-sponsored peace accord.

The accord calls for an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan, guarantees by the United States and the Soviet Union against external intervention, the return of five million Afghan refugees and the withdrawal of Soviet troops within an acceptable time frame.

A Foreign Office spokesman here said Pakistani officials had clearly conveyed to Mr Vorontsov that the issue of returning refugees home from Iran and Pakistan was a "high priority."

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to hold talks in Geneva on March 2, but Islamabad says it will sign a peace accord only with "a legitimate government" in Kabul, demanding the replacement of the present administration headed by Najibullah.

Mr Vorontsov said Moscow believed that a Soviet troop withdrawal would expedite the solution of all other problems, including the formation of an interim government.

The most important problem after the Geneva process, he said, would be the formation of what he called a national reconciliation government in Afghanistan. But he said the creation of such a government was a task for Afghans alone.

Mr Vorontsov said that if any element tried to delay the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it should be held responsible for prolonging difficulties.

"We are moving decisively and speedily and we hope that the others will do the same," Mr Vorontsov said.

He said Americans on various matters had insisted that one should act big. "Now we have started acting big. We had been acting small for eight years. But now this should end and all of us should act big," he said.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister called for a speedy conclusion of the Geneva peace process.

Mujahidin rebels who are not represented at the talks have described the Soviet pull-out timetable as a publicity move. They have rejected the Geneva peace process and a Soviet-backed power-sharing offer from Mr Najibullah. They have also vowed to continue fighting until a broad-based government is installed in Kabul.

Commentary on Interim Government in Kabul
BK121020 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Hasan Akhtar Gardezi commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union says it wants 1988 to be the year of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It has led many observers in Islamabad and elsewhere to believe that the prospects for a settlement in Afghanistan have never been so promising as they are now. All the same, there are others who see a good deal of uncertainty in the situation. They would rather wait and see the results of the talks in Moscow later this month between Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. These talks are expected to focus largely on Afghanistan. And most important of all the next round of Geneva peace talks begins on 2 March.

The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, has offered to withdraw his troops provided a UN-mediated agreement is signed in Geneva by mid-March. It is the declared position of all parties, directly and indirectly concerned with the Geneva peace process, that they want to find a political solution to the Afghanistan issue. All the same, a number of ponderables and imponderables have to be sorted out to make the next round of Geneva talks successful. These mainly relate to the logistics of withdrawal and the acceptability of the post-withdrawal government in Kabul. The post-withdrawal government must be acceptable to the Afghan people, including mujahidin and Afghan refugees. Unless such a government exists in Kabul, the refugees cannot be expected to return to their hearths and homes and the very purpose of finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem would be defeated. Indeed, talks on the timeframe for withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and creation of a transitional government had been going on along parallel lines. In our view, the time has now come to merge them. The issue of a new government in Kabul has become crucial after Soviet declaration on intended withdrawal of their troops.

United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez said in Geneva yesterday that he saw progress toward the formation of a new government in Kabul. He told correspondents: "I believe there is more movement on that than people know."

On the question of interim arrangements, the duration of withdrawal, and composition of the post-withdrawal government in Kabul, Pakistan favors consensus among the Afghans themselves. Any interim government must, in the first place, be acceptable to the Afghan parties as a practical option. The idea is consistent with the provision that outsiders have no locus standi to impose a political dispensation in Kabul. If this is accepted, hopefully 1988 can bring about a political solution to the tangled Afghanistan problem, ushering in a new era of peace and conciliation.

Refugees' Plight Hurt by Foreign Aid Cuts
BK111355 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Feb 88 p 1

[By Saeed Qureshi]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1—A "contingency plan" is under preparation for the repatriation of Afghan refugees in case a political settlement is reached on the Afghanistan issue. This was disclosed here by Rostam Shah Mahmud, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, in an exclusive interview with "THE MUSLIM".

Allaying apprehensions that the refugees would resist going back to Afghanistan, Mr Shah said that according to his reckoning they would voluntarily return within a period of 3 to 6 months.

Their present living conditions, Mr Shah said, were so bad that no one would like to hang on for a single day after they are signalled to return to their homeland. "I have seen a yearning and an intense desire among the refugees to return to their country because they do not want to stay here forever for the sake of a tent, a mud house or doles of wheat and sugar," the Commissioner observed.

Mr Shah was of the opinion that those refugees settled in the cities who have entered into matrimonial bonds or business links with the locals would perhaps be allowed to stay on.

Mr Shah disclosed that international agencies, notably the World Food Programme and United Nations High Commission for Refugees, have stopped commodity aid consisting of sugar, tea, and powdered milk to the refugees from January this year. This is going to adversely affect the living standards of the refugees who are already suffering from malnutrition, poor sanitation, and a host of other ailments.

"We have tried to impress upon the donors the dire need for continuing the aid but they have their own reasons and problems, one of which is the diversion of a big chunk of aid to the refugees in Sudan and Ethiopia who are facing death and starvation and need immediate relief and succour."

Mr Shah said that the ongoing expenditure of one million dollars per day was being shared equally by international donor agencies and the Pakistan Government.

He said that while the supply of tents by the donor agencies has already been discontinued, the much needed kerosene oil too has been curtailed from 20 to 14 litres per family.

One of the disastrous fallouts of the reduction in aid in Mr Shah's opinion would be that the refugees would turn to the cities in search of livelihood, leading to bitter strife and feuds with the local citizens. The best way out was to contain the refugees within the tents so that the peace of the cities is not disturbed. And that is possible only if the refugees are fed within the tentage villages for which the resumption of supended aid is absolutely necessary.

When asked whether the Afghan refugees were still pouring in or had started returning to Afghanistan, Mr Shah said that there was still an influx of around 2,000 refugees per month into Pakistan. "After the Khowst battle, in one month alone five to six thousand refugees entered Pakistan". In Bajaur Agency the inflow of refugees was still unabated, the Commissioner disclosed.

President Attends Iranian Revolution Reception

BK120645 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq attended a reception marking the 9th anniversary of the Iranian Islamic Revolution at the Iranian ambassador's residence in Islamabad last evening. The president conveyed sincere felicitations to the Iranian Government and people through the Iranian envoy on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan. He expressed his congratulations to Imam Khomeyni and the friendly people of Iran and prayed for the progress and prosperity of that country. The Iranian envoy reciprocated by expressing similar sentiments of friendship and brotherliness for the Pakistani Government and people.

Libyan, Cuban Ministers Meet Ziaul Haq 11 Feb

BK111153 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] The Libyan foreign minister, Mr Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, and the deputy foreign minister of Cuba, Mr Giraldo Mazola, called separately on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today.

The Libyan foreign minister conveyed to the president the best wishes and regards of Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. He also discussed with the president matters of mutual interest, particularly economic, commercial, and cultural relations between Pakistan and Libya. The president asked the Libyan foreign minister to convey his best wishes to President [as heard] al-Qadhdhafi and the people of Libya.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister delivered a letter from President Fidel Castro to the president. He also discussed with the president matters relating to bilateral relations. The president expressed the hope that despite the geographical distance between the two countries, new avenues would be explored to intensify exchanges between the two countries and to increase collaboration to the mutual benefit, particularly in economic and commercial fields.

Joint Ministerial Meeting With Libya Opens

BK101603 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The 10th meeting of the Pakistan-Libya Joint Ministerial Commission was held in Islamabad today. The meeting is made up of four subcommittees that will review ways to improve cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, manpower, culture, and information. The Pakistani delegation was led by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, and the Libyan delegation by the foreign minister, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi.

The joint ministerial commission will meet again on Saturday to consider the subcomittees' reports.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Says Situation in South Improving

BK120900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has urged his countrymen to help the government in rooting out the subversive threat from the outlawed Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Front]. Addressing students in (Nirigamma) in the south of the country, he said the JVP is like a cancer and cannot be allowed to exist alongside democracy. He maintained that the security forces have succeeded in controlling them and the situation in the south is improving. He declared that his government will not succumb to any threats from the outlawed organization.

Violence Between Tamil Group, Troops Continues

'Major Search Operation'

BK111530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 11 (AFP)—Indian troops launched a major search operation for Tamil Tiger rebels under cover of an indefinite curfew as night fell on Eastern Batticaloa District Thursday, Indian sources and witnesses said.

Residents in Batticaloa Town contacted by telephone said Indian troops in full battledress were moving on foot through the streets in darkness. The soldiers were armed with machineguns and bazookas, they said.

The residents also reported a large amount of helicopter activity over the Tamil-majority town of some 45,000 people which straddles a lagoon.

Indian sources said the operation would take the form of a major search and arrest sweep against members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who have refused to lay down arms under the July Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord to end the Tamil separatist conflict.

India has been sending thousands of reinforcements into Batticaloa District since February 1 to tackle the LTTE. Unofficial estimates put the Indian troop strength at more than 20,000. Only 3,000 Indian soldiers were in the district before the buildup began.

Indian High Commissioner here Jyotindra Nath Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the operation had been launched because the LTTE had shifted from the Northern Province to the east following India's massive offensive from October 10.

The operation would be "equally as extensive" as the push against the Jaffna Peninsula in the north, but also "different" because India's peace-keeping force had learnt some lessons since then, he said.

The latest offensive would cover most of the Eastern District, much of which is jungle, the Indian sources said.

Batticaloa, like northeastern Trincomalee, has been under night curfew, but the curfew had been extended indefinitely from Thursday, the sources said. It was expected to remain in force for two or three days, they added.

Towards December the focus of fighting on the island moved to Batticaloa after the fall of the LTTE stronghold of Jaffna at the end of October.

The killing of police, civilians and soldiers has been an almost daily event there this year and the LTTE launched a successful civilian disobedience campaign in the East disrupting the local administration from January 18.

The latest offensive had been expected since the troop buildup began. Mr Dixit said this week that "optimum levels of normalcy" would be restored to enable provincial elections to go ahead.

Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene has said he would like to hold the elections, which will see a united Northern and Eastern Province set up with limited powers of autonomy, by May.

India, which has about 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka, has lost more than 360 men since October and killed about 1,300 suspected rebels.

Curfew in Batticaloa

BK111624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, three peacekeeping force [PKF] personnel were drowned when their patrol boat capsized in a lagoon in the Batticaloa sector. Three other PKF personnel and two LTTE men were killed and seven injured in an ambush by the LTTE in Puthukkudiyruppu near Mullaitivu.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew was declared in the eastern Batticaloa from 1800 this evening. Although there is no official confirmation, our Colombo correspondent, Plaban Majumder, reports that the residents of the Batticaloa town claimed that indefinite curfew has been imposed to start operations against the LTTE which has been active in the east for the past few days after being pacified in the north. The residents also claimed that two camps have been established at (Annipai) and (Karapianadu), north of Batticaloa town, to remove the LTTE from the jungles.

The seventh batch of over 500 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees reached Talaimannar today by ship from Rameswaram. Over 2,740 Tamil refugees have returned to the island in the last 3 months. India has arranged a biweekly ship transportation from the 20th of this month to take them to their homes.

PKF Batticaloa Operation

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[Text] The peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka has started an operation in the eastern district of Batticaloa to disarm the LTTE in the area effectively. The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr Dixit, told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, this morning that the operation will be as extensive in the Eastern Province as required by the circumstances and will mop up the LTTE hideouts. The LTTE has shifted its activities lately to the Eastern Province after being pacified in the north. This entire district of Batticaloa was put under indefinite curfew from 1800 yesterday evening as the PKF operations got underway. Batticaloa, like other districts in the Eastern Province, Trincomalee and (?Amparai), had been under night curfew earlier.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Colombo has recognized for the first time a former Tamil militant organization, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF, as a political party. EPRLF had earlier been granted an amnesty under Indo-Sri Lankan agreement after it surrendered arms. Three other parties were also recognized. They are the United Socialist Alliance, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the Liberal Party.

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